Honors Advisory Council Minutes
March 21, 2007

Present: Linda Van Ingen, Petula Vaz, Gary Davis, Jane Christensen
Janice Fronczak, Paul Twigg, Aaron Dimock
Absent: Dusty Newton, Ron Tuttle, Beverly Frickle, Dennis Potthoff

Minutes from the February 21, 2007 Honors Advisory Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Collegiate representatives on the Council were reminded that the assessments of the randomly-sampled 2006 Honors Senior Studies were due on April 18, the date of the final meeting for the spring semester. These assessments are vital data to the Assessment Reports for the Honors Program.

A brief overview of Honors application numbers, including the entirety of UNK application data, was discussed. Currently 179 Honors applications have been received and letters of acceptance to the Honors Program were sent to most. Out of these, 85 students have responded in the affirmative, 2 have declined. Acceptance forms are due May 1. Those who have not returned their acceptance/decline forms will be called by Admissions counselors to encourage them to come to UNK and become part of the UNK Honors Program.

57 currently enrolled Honors students applied for Honors scholarships for spring 2007. Out of these 19 were awarded one of four types of Honors scholarships: full or partial Honors Room Waivers; Honors Tuition Waivers; or an endowed scholarship of some sort. Fronczak asked who makes the decisions about distribution of Honors scholarships. Davis answered that he and Mary Sommers, Director of Financial Aid, make most of these decisions.

Currently enrolled Honors students will pre-register on the early Honors registration day, Thursday, March 29. Collegiate representatives were reminded to alert their Deans and Chairs of this early date.

A pilot Early Honors Registration Day for incoming freshmen will take place on Friday, April 27. It will be akin to Summer Advising and Enrollment, but a bit abbreviated. The first 50 Honors students to register for this early day will be accepted. Those remaining will need to register for regular Summer Advising and Enrollment which begins May 21. This new early registration opportunity is in step with the trend at many other universities who now make such an early registration opportunity a regular part of their incoming freshmen enrollment regimen.

Gary Davis reported on his trip with Dr. Finnie Murray, VCAASL, and Jerry Fox, Director of International Education, to the Netherlands to investigate the possibility of implementing an exchange program with Roosevelt University in Middleburg, Netherlands. The program would provide the opportunity for 5 Honors students to exchange for one semester to Roosevelt University, and 5 Dutch students to attend UNK. The ambition is to implement the exchange program this fall. Roosevelt University’s academic semesters line up nicely with
UNK’s schedule. UNK students would need to obtain education visas in order to study at Roosevelt, and pay for their own room and board. Tuition is yet to be determined.

Tuesday, March 27, the Honors Program will host a luncheon in honor of Ed and Betty Cook, and the 20 Honors students who are Cook Scholars. Ed and Betty Cook began their Cook Scholarship for 5 incoming freshmen per academic year 5 years ago. They provide $1000 per year for each Cook Scholar. The Cooks routinely maintain contact with each scholar, and this luncheon is a way for the Honors Program and UNK to thank them for their philanthropy. Chancellor Doug Kristensen will host the luncheon.

Dimock asked if a list of deciding Honors students could be made available to the collegiate representatives to share with their fellow departments in their respective colleges for recruitment purposes, most especially for faculty who teach general studies courses in which these deciding Honors students may be enrolled. Such a list will be created and made available to the collegiate representatives and distributed at the April 18 meeting.

The next Honors Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, April 18, 2007.

Adjournment at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by JoLene Williams, recording secretary and Jane Christensen, Associate Director, UNK Honors Program