Honors Advisory Council Minutes  
September 19, 2007  
Memorial Student Affairs Conference Room  

Present: Gary Davis, Jane Christensen, Janice Fronczak, Dennis Potthoff, Linda Van Ingen, Deb Bridges, Ron Tuttle, Beverly Frickle, Michelle Foley, V.P., and Council representative of the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB).

Absent: Dusty Newton, Aaron Dimock, Petula Vaz, Paul Twigg  

Minutes from the April 18, 2007 Honors Advisory Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Christensen began the meeting by describing Scholar Recognition Day, which will be on Monday, Oct 1st. It is a combined recruitment effort by the Honors Program and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment. All top 10% of Nebraska high school seniors and juniors, who also scored in the 28+ ACT range, and their families are invited for a series of morning panel discussions and college open houses, and a luncheon hosted by the Chancellor, and the Omaha World Herald administration. UNK offers this event earlier than UNL or UNO. Application to UNK and to the Honors Program is strongly encouraged to the student guests at this event to be considered for scholarships.

Early advising for Honors students will begin October 2 with early registration on November 1st. A departmental advising form signed by each Honors student’s departmental advisor is required or early Honors registration is blocked.

Christensen explained Early Honors Registration Day. The pilot for this new registration opportunity was last April 27, 2007. 53 Honors students were enrolled for Fall 2007 that day in what was akin to a condensed Summer Advising and Enrollment day. In April 2008, it will become a 2-day event, with 35-40 students registering each of these two days. The goal is to attract and retain the “top tier” students as early as possible. This type of early registration opportunity for select groups of students (like Honors students, and athletes, for example) is a rising trend at many universities. An outline of Early Honors Registration Day is included in the packet students receive with the admissions information.

The Honors Freshman Convocation was attended by 127 of the 134 enrolled for 2007 fall. Davis and Christensen, along with Mary Sommers, Director of Financial Aid, reminded Honors freshmen of information they received at Summer Advising.

Christensen explained the Honors Campus Connection (“CC”) Mentoring Program which is designed for retention of freshman by connecting them with an upperclassman to mentor and orient them to UNK and the Honors Program, and to attend Honors events such the “CC”/Honors Freshmen Ice Cream Social held in the first week of school.

Davis provided data sheets of 2007 freshman honors students, including scholarship distribution, ACT scores, class ranks, major/department distribution, and other demographics. The names, hometowns, and majors of the three 2007 recipients of the Omaha World-Herald/Kearney Hub full-ride scholarships, and the five 2007 Cook Scholars were also provided.
Davis explained Premiere Preview Day, a summer high school junior recruitment program begun in 2006. In 2006 13 campus visits by 29 high juniors took place during regular SAE days. As a result, 48% of these enrolled in 2007 as UNK freshmen. In 2007 8 campus visits took place with 39 juniors. The goal is 90% enrollment for 2008. Ultimately the goal is to host 50 juniors, and achieve 100% enrollment. During a Premiere Preview Day, juniors meet with the Honors Director, eat lunch with the Director and other Admissions Counselors (occasionally with the Summer Advising and Enrollment lunches) and generally are toured around campus and encouraged to attend academic appointments.

Michelle Foley, Vice President of the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB), and Honors Council representative of the HSAB, visited the council and distributed a handout with information about the HSAB members and meeting times.

Davis introduced the new Governance Document to the council for review and revision.

Davis asked the council members for input regarding reporting the minutes to their respective chairs and deans along with the minutes submitted by the recording secretary.

Adjournment at 5:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by JoLene Williams, recording secretary and Jane Christensen, Associate Director, UNK Honors Program