Honors Advisory Council Meeting  
January 28, 2009  
Memorial Student Affairs Building—Sisler Room

Present: Mary Beth Ailes, Brittany Brown (HSAB), Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Aaron Dimock, Beverly Frickel, Victoria Goro-Rappaport, Jan Moore, Paul Twigg  
Absent: Deb Bridges, Dusty Newton, Dennis Potthoff, Ron Tuttle  
Guest: Michael Pelster, Asst. Dir., Office of Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions

Minutes from the November 12, 2008 Honors Advisory Council (HAC) were reviewed and approved with one correction: “Jan” Moore, not “Jane” Moore.

*Brittany Brown reported that the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB) met for the first time last week and discussed the Honors Newsletter, which will be posted on the Honors web page; members will contribute articles. The Board continues with its comparisons of the UNK Honors Program to other Nebraska State Colleges. They also brainstormed new activities for spring 2009.

*Davis reported on the Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub application data. A total of 92 applications were received; 81 completed their application files. The scholarship committee of Dusty Newton (Admissions), Mary Sommers (Financial Aid), Jane Christensen (Honors) and Gary Davis (Honors) reviewed the applications and selected 30 students. These 30 received invitations for the interview before the semester break. Four declined, and 26 accepted the invitation. These 26 were interviewed by the committee on Monday January 26 and Tuesday January 27—13 per day. They were interviewed in the morning, with accompanying other activities, and then attended a Luncheon hosted by Chancellor Kristensen. Also in attendance were the Vice Chancellors and Deans. Michael Pelster organized the parent and student activities, and Dr. Peter Longo conducted mini-Honors classes for the candidates.

Three winners will be selected from these candidates. They will receive full-ride scholarships to UNK. The remaining candidates receive the Regents tuition scholarship and an Honors Room Waiver, and possibly additional funding.

*February 1 is the deadline for Honors Program scholarships. Currently there are 131 applications. Letters will be sent very shortly after the Feb. 1 deadline so students are informed of any Honors awards as soon as possible.

*Micheal Pelster spoke to HAC about Senior Day, to be held on Monday, February 16. Gary Davis and Jane Christensen will host an information table at the Organization Fair which will start the day around 10 a.m. for the visiting high school seniors. Other Honors students will also help answer questions.

*Micheal also explained the role of Student Leaders at Summer Advising and Enrollment. The call for applications recently was sent to all campus folk, who are encouraged to recommend appropriate students to apply.
*Davis reported on the most recent students to exchange to UNK from the Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg, Netherlands—the Honors College of Utrecht University in Amsterdam. Anne Hillebrand, Cornelis Stok, and Samantha Rijkers, all of whom are Dutch students, currently live in Stout Hall, and are enrolled in upper-division courses in which they are completing Honors Options. All seem well-adjusted to UNK, and are enjoying their time so far. Amanda Olson, a sophomore from Stuart, NE, and Erik Dodge, a sophomore from Valley, NE, are currently enrolled in Roosevelt Academy, and are also adjusting to life in Middelburg.

*Two HAC members submitted brief overviews of comparison to UNK’s Honors Program, comparing UNL and UNO. This information can serve as a model for other HAC faculty representatives to submit similar input. These comparisons will continue with NE state colleges, and then compare UNK’s Honors Program to the private colleges. All this information will serve to help improve the UNK Honors Program, and also help provide valuable information for the upcoming APR in October.

*The remaining meetings of the HAC for spring 2009 will be on February 18, March 25, and April 29, generally in the Student Affairs Conference Room, at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Christensen, Associate Director, UNK Honors Program