Honors Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting
February 17, 2010
Student Affairs Conference Room

Present: Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Aaron Dimock, Beverly Frickel, Victoria Goro-Rapaport, Jan Moore, Samantha Post (HSAB), Jim Rohrer, Ron Tuttle, Paul Twigg
Absent: Deborah Bridges, Dusty Newton, Dennis Potthoff

Minutes for the January 20, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

James Rohrer, History, is the interim HAC member from the College of Natural and Social Sciences for the spring semester. Jim is an interim member for Mary Ailes who is on sabbatical.

Samantha Post, Vice President of the Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB), reported on the events HSAB plans for spring. They are in the midst of refining the details of the plans made in January: Honors mug sales—the fund-raiser for February, a semi-formal dance in March, and a barbeque in April.

Christensen explained that the Action Plan report in response to the Honors Program APR held in early October was complete and sent to the SVCAA&SL and the Faculty Liaison on Monday, February 15. A copy of this plan is in each HAC member’s folder (and is attached below on these minutes). The Directors of the Honors Program now await response from the SVCAA&SL.

Davis reported on the results of the candidate interviews for the Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub Scholarships (OWH/KH): Rick Poppe, North Platte; Amanda Ullman, Pius X, Lincoln; and Jordan Rehnstrom, Hartington. All three students have accepted this prestigious four-year full-ride scholarship package. Dr. Kenya Taylor graciously offered a plan to offer these winners and the other 26 candidates an Undergraduate Fellowship scholarship valued at $500/semester, renewable for four years in addition to their current scholarship packages. The Honors Program hopes this may help in recruitment of all 29 students.

Christensen reported on the upcoming Scholars Recognition Day, Monday, March 1, 2010. In the past Scholar Recognition Day was held the first Monday in October, always in collaboration with the Office of Admissions. A decision was made by committee to move the event to spring, and to invite the current admitted scholarship students for fall 2010, and the top 10% of high school juniors. We hope this change of dynamic may help “seal the deal” with those high school seniors who have accepted UNK and Honors scholarship offers, and entice juniors to take a closer look at UNK as they begin their college searches. The program for Scholars Recognition Day has not changed, however. There will still be an administrative panel (Honors, Admissions, Financial Aid) and an Honors Student Panel for Q&A, as well as College Open Houses hosted by Deans, faculty, and majors in the colleges. This type of morning program has proven to be most helpful and interesting to the visiting students and parents. Formal campus tours are optional.

Davis reported on the scholarship distribution to incoming Honors freshmen. 129 scholarships were offered to 207 applicants. These scholarships vary: 3 OWH/KH; Room Waivers; and grants of varying amounts. This amounts to about 62% of total applications to the Honors Program. No scholarships are offered to any student under a 26 ACT or top 25% ranking in the high school class.

Honors advising is now set to start on Tuesday, March 2. There was a delay because of the implementation of PeopleSoft/My Blue. Once training commences for this new software, and the new fall schedule is up and running for all to see, advising, both Honors and departmental, will be more beneficial.
Davis reports on the Roosevelt Academy (RA): for fall 2010, 5 Honors students are already in place for a semester abroad in the Netherlands; 3 are already planned for spring 2011 from RA. Plans for fall 2011 are for 5 to travel each way.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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