Honors Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting
December 3, 2009
Sisler Room, MSAB
Present: Mary Ailes, Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Beverly Frickel, Jan Moore, Dennis Potthoff, Ron Tuttle
Absent: Deborah Bridges (ex officio), Aaron Dimock, Victoria Goro-Rapaport, Dusty Newton (ex officio), Samantha Post (HSAB), Paul Twigg
Minutes for the October 21, 2009 meeting were approved.

Spring semester 2010 meeting time was discussed, and generally approved to remain the third Wednesday of each month, starting with January 20, 2010 as the first regular meeting of the spring 2010 semester.

In the absence of Post, the HSAB representative to HAC, Davis generally informed the Council of HSAB’s successful fall semester. He added that Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m., is the annual fall Honors Senior Reception for graduating Honors students and their friends, family, and faculty mentors. Later that evening, at 8:30, is the HSAB-sponsored annual Pre-Finals Pancake Feed, aptly renamed “Break for Cakes”, to be held in the Nebraskan Student Union Atrium. Once again, Steve Chatelaine, editor-in-chief of the Kearney Hub, is generously supplying Starbucks coupons for a free coffee during finals week to all Honors students who attend. Amanda Olson, HSAB member, submitted the new November Honors electronic newsletter, which can be seen on the Honors Program web site. She also created a lovely informative brochure for students interested in the Roosevelt Honors Academy exchange to Middelburg, Netherlands.

Advising took place in October, and was quite busy yet quite successful. Davis estimated that 254 Honors students met Christensen and him for Honors advising in addition to their required departmental advising. Of course, some of these students are still deciding so do not have a departmental advisor quite yet so must meet with one of the Honors Directors.

Honors applications for the December 1, 2009 deadline for the Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub scholarships number 137, down slightly from approximately 146 last year. Reviewing the applications has begun, and hopefully the selection committee of Davis, Christensen, Dusty Newton, and Financial Aid Director Mary Sommers will review all qualified applicants and extend invitations to 30 students for the formal interviews within the next two weeks. The formal interviews will take place on January 26th and 27th. From these 30, 3 will be offered the full-ride scholarships, and hopefully at least 60%-75% of those interviewed will select UNK. Criteria for these prestigious scholarships are 28 minimum ACT and top 10% ranking in the high school class; an impressive resume with proven leadership; a fine writing sample; and two academic letters of reference. Of these 2010 applications, 85 of the 136 are at 28 ACT, up to 3 who attained a 34 composite ACT. 39 of the 85 are at 30+ ACT. 43, or 32% of the applicants are #1 in their high school rank; 53 or 39% of the 136 are at least #5 and above in their high school class rankings.
Christensen distributed a short synopsis of the plan for the APR Action Plan to be submitted to the VCASA. A draft is in progress, but must wait until conference with the VCASA can take place.

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