Honors Advisory Council (HAC)  
April 20, 2011  
MSAB Conference Room  

Present: Mary Ailes, Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Aaron Dimock, Beverly Frickel, Jan Moore, Victoria Goro-Rapaport, Paul Twigg, Mikayla Brune—HSAB  
Absent: Christopher Knoell, Ron Tuttle, Dusty Newton

Minutes of the March 30, 2011 HAC meeting were reviewed and approved.

Mikayla Brune, Honors Student Advisory Board representative, reported that the HSAB barbecue originally planned for April 14, 2011 in Harmon Park was cancelled due to inclement weather. HSAB’s focus is now on the Honors Spring Banquet, Saturday, April 23, 2011.

Elections for officers for the 2011-2012 academic year were held at the last HSAB meeting, and the following will serve: Abbie Davis, President; Kevin Ripp, Vice President; Mary Stuart, HAC Representative; Jordan Bloesser, Treasurer; and Mikayla Brune, Secretary.

HSAB will distribute candy to all on-campus Honors students to rally them for finals week.

Half of the Honors Senior Studies were returned after assessment by the respective college representatives. The remainder will be returned by finals week.

Gary Davis asked the HAC members in attendance to contemplate their membership on the Council. There are staggered terms in the HAC governance document; however college representatives may choose to remain as long as they wish. Most indicated they wished to remain.

Davis reported that he will be in the Honors office until the end of May. Dr. Peter Longo, appointed Interim Honors Director, will officially move in to the Director’s office on May 16, 2011.

Davis reported that the total number of applications to the UNK Honors Program for fall 2011 is 216. Of these, 105 have accepted both membership and the Honors scholarship offer; 11 declined; and 90 have not replied. Of these 90, many did not receive any Honors scholarship offer, so did not have an official acceptance form to return—thus their intentions remain unknown. UNK Admissions Telecounselors will call these students to encourage them to attend UNK and accept membership in the Honors Program.

Anticipated membership in the freshmen class for fall 2011 is approximately 150.

Further data: as of right now, the number of Honors freshmen is 174; sophomores, 147; juniors, 128; and seniors, 97. Before spring 2011 commencement, the total population of the UNK Honors Program is 546. After spring 2011 commencement, where 53 Honors students will graduate, the total will be 493.

If there are 150 in the fall 2011 freshman class, the total will then be 643—the largest population in the history of the Honors Program.

Of the 53 spring graduates 47 will graduate at the Honorable Mention level—3.50—or above: 19 at Summa Cum Laude; 11 at Magna Cum Laude; 6 at Cum Laude; and 11 at Honorable Mention. The average cumulative GPA of these 53 Honors Program graduates is 3.838.

There are also 4 Honors alumni who will graduate with Masters degrees.

16 UNK students did not complete the Honors Program requirements yet will graduate from UNK. The average cumulative GPA of these 16 withdrawals is 3.341.
All potential Honors students who are capable of completing Honors Program requirements are contacted personally by the Associate Director to confer about the possibility of completion. Aaron Dimock suggested that this information be published for the UNK and regional populations to see the success rate of UNK Honors students to further promote recruitment and funding for the Honors Program. Jan Moore suggested that this data be compared with the averages for the UNK student population as a whole. Both suggestions are in accordance with the suggestions made during the October 2009 APR of the UNK Honors Program.

Summer Advising and Enrollment (SAE) will begin on May 16, 2011, and continue until June 30, 2011. There are 21 total SAE days. Jane Christensen, Associate Director, will advise all incoming Honors freshmen at SAE.

Gary Davis will travel to Middelburg, Netherlands, on Monday, April 25-Saturday, April 30 to sign a renewed exchange contract for five years. The exchange with Roosevelt Academy, the Honors College branch of Utrecht University, has been a resounding success for the last four years, starting with one student from UNK/one from Roosevelt exchange in fall 2007, to five from each college this semester. Anticipated exchanges in the future might be up to ten students—as of today there are enough UNK Honors students interested in exchanging to fill each semester until spring 2013.

Discussion continued about the possible revision/alteration of the Honors Senior Study rubric for assessment, and more structured guidelines for both Honors Options and the Honors Senior Study. The Council concurred it must be simple yet broadly applicable. College representatives plan to raise the issue in their respective college meetings to ascertain if there is interest in creating guidelines at the college/departmental levels. Some departments already have a very structured guideline for senior seminar/senior capstone-like work, which neatly fits into the philosophy of the Honors Senior Study, with added requirements to make the senior-level work Honors-level.

The charge to the HAC is to confer with their respective colleges, and to supply suggestions to the Honors Directors at subsequent meetings next fall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Jane Christensen, Associate Director, UNK Honors Program