Honors Advisory Council (HAC) Meeting  
September 22, 2010  
Sisler Room, MSAB

Present: Mary Ailes, Jane Christensen, Gary Davis, Aaron Dimock, Beverley Frickel, Victoria Gororapaport, Chris Knoell, Jan Moore, Ron Tuttle, Britney Zeller (Honors Student Advisory Board [HSAB] representative) 
Absent: Deb Bridges, Dusty Newton, Paul Twigg

Since this was the first meeting of the 2010-2011 academic year, introductions went round the table. Chris Knoell, College of Education, is the newest member of HAC, replacing Dennis Potthoff.

Minutes for the April 21, 2010 meeting, were reviewed and approved. Britney Zeller, HSAB president for 2010-2011, represented the Student Board. Per the recommendations of the October 2009 Honors Program APR, there will be two HSAB representatives at each HAC meeting beginning with the October meeting. Zeller reported that instead of numerous social activities each month, the Board has elected to have two main events: a community service activity, hopefully Habitat for Humanity, and the Honors Pancake Feed right before finals week. HSAB will continue Honors t-shirts, Honors mugs, and Honors Mid-Term Survival Kits parents can buy for their Honors student(s) as fund-raising opportunities.

Jane Christensen provided the HAC an overview of Summer Advising and Enrollment (SAE) 2010. Faculty advisors got plenty of practice utilizing MyBLUE, the new computer software for academic advising and enrollment. Over 100 Honors students attended SAE, while 60+ attended April 27, Honors Advising and Enrollment (HAE). HAE was an initial experiment in early enrollment for Honors freshmen in 2008. April 2009 and April 2010 were the second and third years. However, Honors directors and Admissions agreed to return to the plan that all Honors freshmen will attend SAE. Drawbacks to the early spring enrollment are: lack of personal contact with the Honors directors hinders retention, and many Honors freshmen who could not attend in April were generally disgruntled (as were parents).

Christensen further reported that Honors advising will begin Monday, October 4, 2010; Honors early registration is Wednesday, October 27, 2010. A list of the Honors general studies seminars will be sent to faculty in early October to aid in advising Honors students, especially freshmen and sophomores still enrolling in general studies courses.

Gary Davis reported on basic data about the Honors freshmen, fall 2010. 164 Honors freshmen enrolled at UNK for fall 2010. The average ACT score is 27.75. Davis then reported on data about the entire Honors Program population. As of this fall, 574 UNK students are current members of the UNK Honors Program—the largest population ever. 164 freshmen is also the largest freshman class ever. Totals by class: freshmen: 164; sophomores: 148; juniors: 139; and seniors: 123.

Christensen reported on the Honors Freshmen Convocation held Thursday, September 2, 2010. 136 freshmen were able to attend out of 164. John Falconer, Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, spoke about undergraduate research; Mary Sommers, Director of Financial Aid, spoke about scholarships; Dr. Joan Blauwkamp, Chair of the Political Science department, spoke about Honors faculty expectations; and the Honors Student Advisory Board spoke about their role in the Program. Christensen and Davis reminded the freshmen about advising, Honors policies and procedures, and other Honors concerns. The five exchange students from the Roosevelt Academy were introduced.
Applications are slowly beginning to arrive for the Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub full-ride scholarships. Criteria is 28+ ACT (or 800 SAT), and top 10% ranking in the high school class. Deadline for application is December 1, 2010. Selection of candidates to interview will take place immediately after the deadline. Interviews of candidates will be on January 25 and 26, 2011. Selection will be made immediately after the interviews. From this pool of remaining candidates initial Honors scholarship offers will be made as soon as possible. The deadline for other scholarships and membership in the Program is February 1, 2011.

Davis reported an update on the Roosevelt Academy (RA) exchange program. Currently, we host five RA students majoring in Political Science, English, Chemistry, and two in Psychology. All the RA students live in Men’s Hall, the newly renovated designated Honors Hall, with UNK roommates. Five UNK students are in Middelburg, Netherlands, until January. They are sending excellent reports via e-mail, and are well-adjusted to RA life.

College fair season is open, and Christensen and Davis will (or already have) attend each college fair, in Grand Island (September 17), Lincoln (October 17), and Omaha (October 31).

The search for the new Honors Director continues.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 20th, at 3:45 p.m. in the Sisler Room, MSAB

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Christensen, Associate Director, UNK Honors Program
JoLene Williams, Secretary, UNK Honors Program/Admissions