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Honors Committee

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Minutes of the University Honors Committee

May 20, 2009

Chair Tom Traynor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in room 238 Millett Hall. Also attending were members Susan Carrafiello, Erik Banks, Paul Hershberger, Bill Slattery, Marty Kich, Carol A. Wagner Williams, Leo Finkelstein, Donna Miles Curry, and guest Alex Wenning. The minutes of the April 22 meeting were approved.

First, the committee reviewed and approved three course proposals:

UH 400: Semiotics and Communication—Elliot Gaines;

UH 400: War Memoirs from Antiquity to the Present—Bruce LaForce;

UH 202/203: Engagement with Appalachia—Sarah Twill and Hunt Brown.

Questions were raised about whether the amount of writing required in both 400 seminars was sufficient. The committee will consult with the Director of Writing Across the Curriculum Program and advise the instructors on their requirements accordingly.

Next, the committee considered the History Department's responses to the committee's concerns about the proposal to alter the department's honors program. The departmental faculty agreed to insert the word "typically" in the sentence that describes the length of the project. The department intended to exclude projects in public history, since no courses in that area are taught at the undergraduate level. Finally, each student's committee would be free to use "reasonable discretion" in applying the guidelines set forth in the document. The revisions in the department's document were accepted as clarified.

The Lake Campus Honors Program proposal has now also been approved by the Lake Campus faculty and by UCAP. Prof. Kich expects that this new program will reinvigorate Honors course offerings and student participation at the Lake Campus.

All of the Continuing Student Scholarship sub-groups have been busily reading documents and making decisions. Honors accounts are all in good shape and awards can be made as usual. All sub-groups need to report their choices by Friday, May 26, 2009.

Director Susan Carrafiello reported on progress on the semester conversion and on some of the ideas that might make for an easier transition for Honors. The committee discussed briefly contract courses, tutorials, and dual listed courses. It was suggested that Honors might survey those who have taught in the program over the last few years to gauge their willingness to participate in these kinds of options.

Upcoming events include the Honors Research Colloquium on May 21 and the Honors Graduates Reception on June 11. The guest of honor will be Honors Alumna Danielle Rolfes, who graduated as a University Honors Scholar in Accountancy in 1997. She attended Harvard Law School, where she served as editor of the Harvard Law Review. She is a partner in a major Washington DC law firm where she practices international and corporate taxation. The event begins at 3:00 in the Apollo Room of the Student Union. Refreshments and entertainment provided. Respond to Honors@wright.edu if you plan to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kenton, Secretary to the Committee