Honors Council

Minutes

November 30, 2018

Approved 12/6/19

**Present:** Julie Campbell, Emily Chiarello, Justin Chhoeun, Terry Husband, Jeremy Jenkins, Jin Jo, Sara Keene, Evie Kovarik, David Mancol, Rocío Rivadeneyra, and Elizabeth Skylakos

1. The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of Minutes** Jenkins made a request for a revision to the minutes: Article VI - the second paragraph – change “Freshmen” to “FTIC”. A motion to approve the minutes with the revision was made by Jenkins; Seconded by Husband.
4. **Assessment of Honors Contracts** Jo asked if there is a certain format for the report when students submit their contracts. Rivadeneyra said it depends upon faculty requirements. Jo feels that for evaluation purposes, students should be given loose guidelines of the six dimensions and then the student can decide and think about how they will address each dimension. Give students a chance to plan. Attach one additional sheet with a table format to address some of the dimensions. Rivadeneyra stated Honors does ask students which dimensions they will be addressing. Also, Honors now asks at the end for the student to give an example of how they used at least one of the dimensions. The idea came from an Honors Council meeting a year ago. Mancol asked if the evaluator (faculty) have something from the student stating which dimensions they are addressing. Rivadeneyra stated that probably 95% of faculty do not know Honors has dimensions. Honors is trying to communicate better with faculty. There are some challenges on the best way to communicate with faculty. Honors also works with students through seminar. Keene stated she didn’t realize the quantity of contracts. She went on to the Honors website to see what it said about requirements. There is nothing consistent that says what is required for evidence. Rivadeneyra responded that is intentional. Honors wants it to be what the student and faculty want it to be. Only requirement is that it must be 15 hours throughout the semester. Honors wants to encourage creativity. They ask students to reflect on the dimensions, but it is not a requirement.

Kovarik shared that when she is creating a project, she doesn’t think about the dimensions. She sees it as an opportunity to work with the instructor. She feels like it is open to interpretation. She agrees faculty should know about the dimensions, but feels it is something you think of after the fact or at the end of the project. If she doesn’t enjoy the project, she won’t put as much thought in to it. Rivadeneyra added that informing faculty of the dimensions would be informational. Keene asked Kovarik if she would be ok to include an additional one page reflection on her project and what dimension it focused on. Kovarik agreed she would prefer that rather than trying to incorporate a dimension in the project. Rivadeneyra said it is the student’s responsibility to inform faculty about the dimensions. There needs to be an increase of communication on both sides – student & faculty.

Campbell stated she liked the number system that was used to assess the Honors contracts. She thought it was helpful. Her ratings matched up with Anderson’s ratings, which were submitted to Rivadeneyra. Rivadeneyra added that the Honors Council or Honors staff could use a version of the rubric to evaluate approximately ten contracts a semester. But she also likes using the reflection. Jenkins said he preferred both. Parallel evaluation with numerical assessment would be beneficial.

Jo asked if there was a way for students to show or track what contracts they have completed. Rivadeneyra answered that the digital badging system is used for students to keep track of their experiences, but at this time it does not keep track of which Dimensions of Honors Learning each experience touches on. Maybe as a future project, Honors could somehow keep track of dimensions students have completed. It is very difficult to do with the system Honors currently has.

Chiarello added she is not sure her seminar students have even activated their Credly accounts. Mancol has not used his Credly since freshman year. Honors pitches it would be beneficial, positive reinforcement. Is there an app for Credly? That would make it easier to use. Rivadeneyra has had suspicions that students are not using their Credly accounts. Chhoeun added that maybe it’s because it’s only for Honors experiences. Keene stated that she is currently on the job market and she did not include it on any of her resumes, etc. Kovarik stated it is more beneficial to have a LinkedIn account. Keene added all potential employers she’s talked to have asked for her LinkedIn account, but didn’t know what Credly was.

1. Rivadeneyra plans for the Council to meet again in February or March. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Brooks

Recording Secretary