To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly

The Honors Program Board creates and controls all policies and oversight for the Campuswide Honors Program. The Board policy areas include, but are not limited to, honors program admission, graduation, curriculum, advising, recruitment, extracurricular activities, and academic perquisites.

Overview of the Campuswide Honors Program and the 2007 Entering Class

The Campuswide Honors Program began in 1986 when the Academic Senate created the Senate committee to be “the policy-making body of the Honors Program” and established the overall structure of the Campuswide Honors Program (CHP). The first freshman class entered in 1988. The Academic Senate oversees the curriculum structure of the CHP, which includes core courses that satisfy undergraduate general education requirements. In addition, each student is required to complete a senior research thesis or creative project. The CHP also provides co-curricular opportunities that enhance the university experience. CHP students are guaranteed housing if they meet academic requirements and housing deadlines, receive special library lending privileges, and may use honors study rooms in the libraries and the Chancellor’s Club Honors Center/The Locus study room. Graduates of the CHP are among UC Irvine’s most successful alumni. Graduate school and/or professional school attendance is very high. Many CHP alumni remain in close contact with the program, and support the program in many ways, including donating to the CHP, providing career advice to current students, speaking at recruitment events, and spreading the word about the program.

The Honors Program Board members are responsible for selecting the incoming freshmen for their school who are to be admitted to the CHP. In fall 2007, 200 new CHP freshmen entered the University, the largest class ever.

CHP Student Selection Process

A major responsibility of the members of the CHP Board is to select the freshman class. A faculty member in each school has the responsibility of choosing the entering freshmen who had declared majors in that school. Each member receives a list of prospective students for his/her school, and selects from those on the list. The lists are derived from a formula that includes the SAT Reasoning exam score (3 components), the highest SAT Subject Exam score, and the high school GPA. Each school establishes its own criteria for selecting CHP students.

This year the Regents’ Scholarship and CHP admission were aligned, with a single application pool and selection process. Given the desirability of this admissions package, the total number of students offered CHP/Regents’ was decreased from the previous year.
Honors level high school seniors are now applying to 10-15 universities (fifteen years ago, students applied to 6-8). Given this trend, which makes the recruitment of top level students less predictable, the CHP is constantly improving its recruiting efforts. This year’s efforts included Honors Experience Day, the Honors Housing Stay Over Program, a Prospective Freshmen Contact Drive, where current CHP students emailed prospective students, and an informational program at Celebrate UCI. During the months of March and April, CHP staff also conducted group information meetings for students and parents who did not have the opportunity to attend the events listed above.

**Campuswide Honors Program Curriculum**

CHP students are required to complete three-quarter course sequences; these core sequences satisfy some breadth requirements. They include the Humanities Core Course, which must be taken in the first year; Critical Issues in the Social Sciences, and The Idiom and Practice of Science (includes Biology, Chemistry, Earth Systems Science, Mathematics, and Physics), which is offered to CHP students who are not science, engineering, or ICS majors. In addition to the CHP course sequences, honors courses provided by the School of Physical Sciences and the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences attract many CHP students who take the fundamentals of chemistry series, the organic chemistry series, or the introductory ICS series. Upon completion of the honors core courses, CHP students participate in a minimum of two quarters of research, under the guidance of faculty, and produce an honors thesis or project. If a student completes both the CHP and major-specific honors programs, as many of them do, they need only to complete one thesis.

**Proposed Curricular Change**

A proposal to offer the Freshman Integrated Program’s “Consciousness” course as choice for freshmen was proposed by Associate Dean Rudi Berkelhamer of DUE. The committee found many details of the FIP course compelling, but found the Humanities Core Course to be a superior option for CHP students, and the proposal did not pass.

**Honors Transfer Proposal**

A proposal to enhance honors transfer student recruitment by creating agreements with select community colleges, and provide an expedited admissions process to the CHP was brought to the committee by Assistant Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Services, Brent Yunek and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education, Sharon Salinger. The proposal was outlined as follows:

- Propose that UCI articulate with selected community college honors programs regarding students who have successfully completed these programs. For these students, no lower division honors curriculum at UCI would be required.

- Invite these students to UCI

- Duplicate the Regents’ Scholarship offers given to freshmen for these students
• Possibly offer 2 years of guaranteed housing. This would be dependent on the Housing Office having space for these students.

• Students would be members of the CHP, and the curricular requirement would be the Honors Thesis.

The board voted unanimously to endorse the Honors transfer student proposal. In order to do so, they voted, for transfer students who have completed an honors program at their community college, to waive the requirement that students take at least one three-course CHP core sequence, and voted that CHP curriculum for transfer honors students who have successfully completed a community college honors program be that of an Honors Thesis.

**Unfinished Business**
There is no unfinished business to be carried over to next year.

**Chair for 2008-2009**
Carol Burke was elected chair for the next academic year. Attendance at meetings is listed below.

November 2, 2007
David Camerini (Chair), Ian Munro, Ahmed Eltawil, Carol Burke, Elaheh Bozorgzadeh, Simon Cole, Roger McWilliams, Ex Officio, Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

January 10, 2008
David Camerini (Chair), Frank Bean, Elaheh Bozorgzadeh, Carol Burke, Simon Cole, Bill Evans, Ian Munro, Roger McWilliams, Ex Officio, Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

April 8, 2008
David Camerini (Chair), Carol Burke, Simon Cole, Ahmed Eltawil, William Evans, Ian Munro, Amanda Wong (student representative), Roger McWilliams, Ex Officio, Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

Guests: Dean of Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) Sharon Salinger, Associate Vice Chancellor Enrollment Services Brent Yunek, Associate Dean DUE Rudi Berkelhamer, Professor Carrie Noland