

**CAMPUSWIDE HONORS PROGRAM BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2009-2010**

**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 prerequisites. This board has existed for 22 years.

**Overview of the Campuswide Honors Program**

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 Honors Program Board oversees the curriculum structure: core courses that satisfy undergraduate general education requirements plus research and an honors thesis. Students take the year-long Humanities Core Course sequence as freshmen. The three Social Science Core courses are generally taken sophomore year, and non-science majors take three quarters of Science Core, usually in junior year. In addition to the core course requirements, 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 receive priority registration, are guaranteed housing if they meet academic requirements and housing deadlines, have special library lending privileges, and may use honors study rooms in the libraries and the The Locus study room in Student Services II.

**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 have declared majors in that school. (The Dean of Undergraduate Education selects undecided/undeclared students.) 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 SAT scores and high school GPA. Each school establishes its own criteria for selecting CHP students.

Students at this top level are difficult to recruit, as they commonly apply to 10-15 schools, and are accepted by many of their top choices. The CHP collaborates with the Office of Admissions and Relations with Schools and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to inform prospective students about the benefits of a UCI Honors education. This year’s major collaborative effort was Honors Experience Day. Other events and services offered by the CHP included 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 met with prospective students and parents visiting the UCI campus.

### **Review of Incoming Class**

The CHP freshman yield substantially exceeded that of the previous year, with 195 students submitting statements of intent to register.

### **Honors Research Seminars Passed**

CHP Faculty Director Gail Hart presented a proposal to the board to establish special seminars for CHP students. The courses would be 4-credit seminars for 15-20 students, and would include research preparation. The faculty could focus on their area of research or a special area of interest. (An example of this could be science fiction taught by a scientist, or a course on the history of the book.) These seminars could be particularly helpful for transfer students, who could benefit from the introduction to research and becoming more integrated into the CHP. The courses are an addition to the current CHP curriculum, and are not intended to replace the current core curriculum. This proposal was discussed in the January 12, 2010 meeting, and a vote was conducted by email. The idea was approved with 8 members voting “yes,” and one member not submitting a vote.

### **Curriculum Discussion with CHP Faculty**

CHP Faculty Director Gail Hart informed the board that she would be meeting with the CHP faculty from the different schools in the 8<sup>th</sup> week of spring quarter to discuss the program’s curriculum. The honors curriculum is one of the best things about the CHP. The CHP core courses fulfill most of students’ General Education requirements. In cases of scheduling conflicts or other problems, students may petition the director for consideration of alternatives. Petitions are considered on a case-by-case basis. Since UCI General Education requirements no longer stipulate that students take course sequences, the CHP has seen an increase in the number of petitions. The board discussed the ramifications of changing GE requirements on the CHP. The general conclusion was that since the CHP is an honors program, board members believe that it should set higher curricular standards than what is required of the general UCI population. They reflected that the current petition system works, in that it is able to distinguish between students who have genuine schedule conflicts, and those who don’t want to take the curriculum.

### **Chair for 2010-2011**

Given that the final meeting did not have a quorum, an email vote was conducted. Ian Munro (Arts) was reelected as Chair for academic year 2010-2011.

### **Unfinished Business**

There is no unfinished business to be carried over to next year. Attendance at meetings is listed below.

#### **21 September, 2009**

Ian Munro (Chair) Steven Allison, David Kirkby, Ali Mohraz, Victoria Johnson, Amanda Wong (Student Representative)

Gail Hart, Sharon Salinger, Ex Officio

Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

#### **12 January, 2010**

Ian Munro (Chair), Steven Allison, Christopher Carpenter, Susan Coutin, Victoria Johnson, David Kirkby, Ali Mohraz, Amanda Wong (Student Representative)

Gail Hart, Ex Officio,

Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

#### **5 May, 2010**

Ian Munro (Chair), Chair, Steven Allison, Susan Coutin, David Kirkby

Gail Hart, Ex Officio

Lisa Roetzel, Consultant