

**CAMPUSWIDE HONORS PROGRAM BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2008-2009**

**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 21 years.

**Overview of the Campuswide Honors Program and the 2008 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 CHP provides a blend of interdisciplinary course work, benefits, and experiences that maximize the students’ opportunities and accomplishments while at UCI, and helps prepare them to be the leaders, researchers, and educators of tomorrow. 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. 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 2008, 151 new CHP freshmen entered the University.

**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.

CHP admission and the Regents’ Scholarship were aligned this year, 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. Students at this top level are difficult to recruit, as students at this level commonly apply to 10-15 schools, and are accepted by many of their top choices.

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.

### **Pilot Program to Enhance Honors Transfer Admissions**

A new program for honors transfer students was piloted this fall. This pilot program with six partner community colleges offers their top honors students expedited consideration for the following: admission to UCI; the Regents' Scholarship; and admission to the CHP. Students considered for this program must attend one of the six partner community colleges (Cerritos College, Cypress College, Irvine Valley College, Orange Coast College, Saddleback College, Santa Ana College), and must have completed the college's honors program with a 3.5 GPA or better. The curricular requirement for Honors transfer students was established by the 2007-08 Honors Program Board, which voted to waive the requirement that transfer students take one three-course CHP core sequence, for students who have successfully completed an honors program at their community college. For such transfer students, the requirement is successful completion of a minimum of two quarters of research and an honors thesis or creative project.

### **Faculty Director Change**

Professor Roger McWilliams (Physics and Astronomy) will no longer be the Director of the Campuswide Honors Program after this academic year. He has been director of the CHP for over twenty years. The new faculty Director will be Professor Gail Hart (German).

### **Chair for 2009-2010**

Given that there was not a quorum at the final meeting of the year, nominations for chair were taken, and the members of the board voted by email. Ian Munro (Drama) has been elected chair for the next academic year.

### **Unfinished Business**

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

### **4 December, 2008**

Carol Burke (Chair), Ian Munro, Steven Allison, Christopher Carpenter, Ahmed Eltawil, Elaheh Bozorgzadeh, David Kirkby, Susan Coutin, Amanda Wong (Student Representative), Roger McWilliams, Ex Officio, Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

### **12 January, 2009**

Ian Munro, Steven Allison, Christopher Carpenter, David Kirkby, Susan Coutin, Amanda Wong (Student Representative) Roger McWilliams, Ex Officio, Lisa Roetzel, Consultant

**8 May, 2009**

Carol Burke (Chair), Steven Allison, Roger McWilliams, Ex Officio, Lisa Roetzel, Consultant.