

## **Campuswide Honors Program Board 2015-16 Annual Report**

### **To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:**

The Campuswide Honors Program Board (CHPB) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2015-16

#### **1. Council Operations**

James Weatherall, Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science, chaired the Campuswide Honors Program Board in 2015-16. The Board held three regular meetings during the year. The meetings were attended by 11 elected members of the faculty, and an Associated Students of UCI (ASUCI) representative. Ex Officio members are the Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning/Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education (VPTL) and the Faculty Director of the Campuswide Honors Program. The consultant is the Director of Administration of the Campuswide Honors Program.

#### **2. Divisional Issues/Policies**

- A. One of the duties of the CHPB is to advise regarding the CHP curriculum, and to endorse courses proposed to become part of the CHP curriculum. Endorsed courses are then submitted through the CEP process for possible approval. The following proposals regarding curriculum were approved by the board:
  - a. Approved. In addition to current GPA and research requirements (a minimum of two quarters of research and an approved honors thesis or creative project), transfer students who are admitted to the Campuswide Honors Program (CHP) as part of the Honors to Honors program with partner community colleges, will, beginning with the class entering in 2016, also be required to satisfactorily complete an honors-level course during their first year at UCI, either a CHP honors course or a course in one of the departmental/school honors programs (per email approval, October, 2015).
  - b. Approved. With additional funding available for a limited number of new CHP seminars this year, the board agreed to prioritize seminars that were endorsed last year, but did not receive funding (CHPB meeting, 14 January, 2016).
  - c. Approved. Professor Christopher Dobrian (Music) proposed a CHP seminar entitled "Experiments in Music," which was endorsed by the CHPB (per email approval, July, 2016).
- B. Another responsibility of the board is to determine admission to the program, and to set policies for admission.
  - a. Approved for one year with recommendation of assessment of this group of students. CHP Faculty Director Professor Ted Wright brought a proposal to the

board that had to do with increasing the enrollment of freshmen for fall, 2016 by 50 students. The idea was to, on a trial basis, explore more holistic ways to select potential CHP freshmen with the Office of Admissions, with the goal of making the CHP available to a broader spectrum of students. The proposal would not change each school's regular selection (CHPB meeting, 5 November, 2015).

- b. Report by CHP Faculty Director Ted Wright. Members of the CHPB review and select prospective freshman applicants for invitation to the CHP. The goal is for the campus to recruit 200-250 new CHP freshmen for the fall. Each school establishes its own criteria for selection from the list. Students selected to be invited to the CHP receive communications from the program, and are invited to special recruitment events in April. As of May 1, 2016, 243 students had submitted their statement of intent to register (SIR), which is a comparable to last year's 251. In addition, 73 students selected via the process outlined directly above in "a" had submitted their SIR.

### **C. Discussion Regarding CHP Resources and Growth of the Program**

At the CHPB meeting on 3 May, 2016, Michael Dennin, Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean of DUE, discussed several topics with the board regarding the CHP's growth, including:

- a. An anticipated proposal to be brought before the board next year regarding creating an additional CHP curricular Social Sciences and Sciences "track" alongside the current core course sequence, to accommodate additional students and explore innovative approaches to honors education. The importance of developing learning outcomes and assessment of core competencies in CHP courses was also discussed, as were possible ways of getting together a small group of faculty to work on the new track. VPTL Dennin asked for volunteers to participate in the initial planning stages with faculty, and Catherine Benamou, Eric Mjolsness, and Jim Weatherall volunteered.
- b. The VPTL will provide one-time funding this year to facilitate an initiative to better communicate with prospective CHP students and help yield admitted CHP students. Possible ideas include working with the Director of Admissions to have an honors check box on the application, where students could indicate interest in the CHP, training current students to help communicate with prospective students, engaging in outreach to high-achieving students in rural areas, and partnering more strongly with Admissions.
- c. Jim Weatherall, Chair of the CHPB, summarized that, although these are not current action items, assessment and recommendations on proposed curricular

actions will need to be considered next year. Weatherall suggested that the board request that faculty currently teaching CHP courses submit their learning outcomes, which could be used to work on an assessment plan.

**D. Election of the Chair for 2016-17**

Natalia Komarova was elected unanimously to serve as Chair of the CHPB for the next academic year.

*(CHPB meeting 3 May, 2016)*

**3. Membership**

James Owen Weatherall, Chair, School of Social Sciences

Colleen Reardon, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Eman Azizi, Ayala School of Biological Sciences

Carlton Scott, Merage School of Business

Joshua Lawrence, School of Education

Jasper Vrugt, Samueli School of Engineering

Andrej Luptak, Health Sciences

Catherine Benamou, School of Humanities

Eric Mjolsness, Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

Natalia Komarova, School of Physical Sciences

Victoria Basolo, School of Social Ecology

Victoria Nguyen, ASUCI student representative and CHP student

Ex Officio

Ted Wright, Director of the Campuswide Honors Program

Michael Dennin, Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education

Consultant

Lisa Roetzel, Director, Administration, Campuswide Honors Program