

Campuswide Honors Collegium Board 2021-22 Annual Report

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:

The Campuswide Honors Collegium Board (CHCB) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2021-22

1. Council Operations

Charles Zender, Physical Sciences, chaired the CHCB in 2021-22. The Board held three meetings over the academic 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 (VPTL)/Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education and the Associate Dean for Campuswide Honors. The consultant is the Director of the Campuswide Honors Program. Note that board members also spent considerable additional time with work related to admissions of students from their schools/majors to the CHC (see 2B below).

2. Divisional Issues/Policies

- A. One of the duties of the CHCB is to advise regarding the Campuswide Honors Collegium (CHC) curriculum and to endorse courses proposed to become part of the CHC curriculum.
 - a. There were no new courses proposed this year.
 - b. Revision of CHC policy requiring that CHC students take a minimum of 12 units for a letter grade to requirement that CHC students take a minimum of 12 units. In the meeting of May 17, 2022, the CHC's policy of requiring that CHC students take 12 units for a letter grade each quarter was discussed. Associate Dean Ted Wright initiated the discussion, given the fact that more students are engaging in educational opportunities outside of the classroom, such as internships, and wondered if the policy should be altered to account for such opportunities. There is also a petition process where students can petition for exemptions. The Board voted to approve that the CHC policy be changed to be in line with that of the campus, which requires students to take a minimum of 12 units. (This does not affect the policy that all CHC courses must still be taken for a letter grade.)
 - c. Possible revision of CHC passing grade policy in accordance with discussions in the Academic Senate to make C- a passing grade. In the meeting of May 17, 2022, a policy question was discussed regarding current Academic Senate considerations, specifically by the CEP, to make C- a passing grade at UCI. (This would affect the CHC, as currently C is the lowest passing grade allowed by the CHC in CHC courses.) Associate Dean Ted Wright initiated this discussion as the CHC would like to be in alignment with campus policy, should the policy be changed. The Board voted that the CHC should adopt a policy consistent with the Academic Senate.

- Should the Senate adopt the policy changing C- to a passing grade at UCI, then the CHC policy will also change accordingly. (Until such a change takes place, C will continue to be the lowest passing grade allowed by the CHC in CHC courses.)
- d. Requirement that CHC thesis advisors be Senate faculty. The Board examined the policy that currently requires CHC research and thesis projects to be advised by faculty who are members of the Academic Senate. The current policy requires that non-line faculty find a Senate faculty member who is willing to sign off on the thesis project. There is also a petition process to request exceptions. The CHC is seeing increased instances where non-Senate faculty are willing to advise theses and are qualified to do so. These include research faculty, Unit 18 lecturers, and postdoctoral scholars. The CHC would like to reduce the barriers to finding thesis mentors. Currently the CHC encourages students to find Senate faculty or to have non-Senate faculty sign off that they will be at UCI during the period that the research is done. (The CHC requires a minimum of two quarters of research.) This requirement was discussed at the meeting of May 17, 2022 and found to be a complex issue with different implications for the various schools that merits further discussion. It was tabled for discussion in the 2022-23 academic year.
- B. The Board also determines admission to the program and sets policies for admission.
- a. In the meeting of January 20, 2022, Associate Dean Wright discussed the unpredictability of admissions results in the past two years, and the difficulty of predicting yield rates. The goal for Fall 2022 will be 325 incoming freshmen, which is an average sized freshman class. The CHC is limited as to the total number of students it can serve each year due to staff size.
 - b. Board members review and select prospective freshman applicants for invitation to the CHC via holistic review. In the meeting of January 20, 2022, Associate Dean Wright demonstrated to members a spreadsheet he has developed. The spreadsheet includes a parameters page that facilitates holistic review, where different items can easily be weighted, thus allowing board members to more easily customize selection as they and their schools see fit.
 - c. Each school/academic unit establishes its own criteria for selection from the list. Students selected to be invited to the CHC receive communications from the CHC and are invited to special CHC recruitment events in April.
 - d. At the meeting of May 17, 2022 Associate Dean Wright presented yield information for the first-year students entering in Fall 2022. One of the charges of the CHC is to recruit and yield outstanding students to UCI. Admissions results have been more unpredictable than usual during the last two years. The CHC uses a holistic review process outlined above. The CHC initially planned to invite around 4,000 students applying to UCI, which the CHC had predicted to yield the goal of 325 students. The Admissions consultant recommended fewer, around 3,000. This number unfortunately did not yield the CHC the number of students needed, so the CHC

added a waitlist in late April, inviting an additional 300 students from schools which were yielding low in honors. This brought the CHC yield on May 1 to around 360, which is closer to the enrollment goal.

- e. Associate Dean Wright shared a slide regarding yield by school. Many were close to the projected number of students with a couple of exceptions. Biological Sciences yielded more students than expected, while Physical Sciences yielded fewer than expected.
- f. Diversity in Admissions. Based on a green light given by VPTL/Dean Michael Dennin in 2013, the CHC has increased in size by roughly 45%, and its population is now again about 3% of the campus. During the same period, the CHC has increased the diversity of its students without sacrificing academic standards. Central to increased diversity has been the adoption and growth of a more holistic review of prospective CHC first-year students begun in 2013. The CHC has been working to increase diversity in many ways. CHC first generation and low-income populations are growing, and the CHC first-year class this year (entering in Fall 2021) was about 30% Latinx. The CHC is also working to get the word out to rural high schools and areas where students may not know about UCI and the CHC; for those students, being a CHC student can be life-changing.
- g. Another program offered in conjunction with Admissions is Honors to Honors, which helps recruit transfer students who have completed an honors program in community college with a 3.7 GPA or better and are nominated by their community college honors directors. About 100 transfer students enter the CHC each year through this program. Honors to Honors takes place through the Office of Admissions. CHCB is not involved in that process.

C. Election of the Chair for 2022-23

Liz Glynn (Arts) was unanimously elected (Meeting of May 17, 2022).

3. Membership

Charles Zender, Physical Sciences, Chair

Liz Glynn, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Michael Parsons, Biological Sciences

Ming Leung, Merage School of Business

Yuqing Guo, Health Sciences

Shane Goodridge, School of Education

Elizabeth Read, Samueli School of Engineering

Sarah Farmer, School of Humanities

Ray Klefstad, Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

Jenna Riis, School of Social Ecology

Cailin O'Connor, School of Social Sciences

Emily Schoeff, ASUCI student representative and CHP student

Ex Officio

Ted Wright, Associate Dean for Campuswide Honors

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

Consultant

Lisa Roetzel, Director, Campuswide Honors Program