

## **Campuswide Honors Collegium Board 2022-23 Annual Report**

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

The Campuswide Honors Collegium Board (CHCB) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2022-23

### **1. Board Operations**

Liz Glynn, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, chaired the Campuswide Honors Collegium Board in 2022-23. The Board held one meeting each quarter over the academic year, plus one ad hoc meeting. The meetings were attended by 11 appointed 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 and the Associate Dean for Campuswide Honors. The consultant is the Director of the Campuswide Honors Collegium. Board members also spent considerable additional time with work related to admissions of students from their schools and majors to the Campuswide Honors Collegium (CHC) (see 2C below).

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

- A. One of the CHCB's duties is to advise regarding the CHC curriculum and to endorse courses proposed to become part of the CHC curriculum.
  - a. There were no new courses proposed this year.
  - b. Call for CHC Seminars
    - i. In the meeting of May 22, 2023, the Board voted to circulate a call for proposals for new CHC seminars, to be reviewed by the Board in AY 2023-24 and launched in fall quarter 2024.
- B. CHC Capstone Proposal
  - a. Associate Dean for Honors Ted Wright brought a proposal to the Board at its November 15, 2022 meeting for feedback on reimagining the CHC's research thesis requirement to add capstone projects as an option.
  - b. Associate Dean Wright indicated that there are more students in the CHC who do not plan to attend graduate school than in the past. The CHC's current thesis requirement is structured as if graduate school were the goal. He has been in conversations with other honors leaders nationally and found that our thesis requirement is rigid compared to others in the country. Many honors programs and honors colleges have been adding more options as capstone projects. There are high-quality, meaningful projects that can be done outside of the CHC's traditional research/thesis structure, and students are interested in and are pursuing various meaningful projects that could possibly be considered capstone projects. Capstone projects could also affect retention in the CHC, as well. While over 90% of students who enter UCI in the CHC

complete their degrees at UCI, an increasing number of students leave the CHC when they get to the point of the research/thesis requirement. UCI's own research shows that if first generation and low-income students leave the CHC, their academic success is reduced.

- c. The Board decided that the best course of action would be to explore what is already being done at UCI in terms of student learning experiences that could be considered for CHC capstones. Since this topic merited further discussion, an ad hoc meeting was called to discuss the proposal on February 28, 2023. At that meeting, members shared information from their respective schools regarding honors opportunities and existing learning opportunities that could be considered for a final CHC capstone project.
  - d. Associate Dean Wright will be retiring from UCI this summer. He hopes that the capstone proposal will be of interest to his successor and that it will continue to be discussed and considered by the Board next academic year.
- C. Another responsibility of the Board is to determine admission to the CHC and to set policies for admission.
- a. At the meeting of January 24, 2023, Associate Dean Wright discussed the unpredictability of admissions results in the past three years and the difficulty of predicting yield rates. The goal for Fall 2023 will be 325 incoming first-year students, which is an average sized first-year 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. Associate Dean Wright demonstrated a spreadsheet he developed that includes a parameters page that facilitates holistic review, where different items can be easily weighted, thus allowing board members to customize their 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 22, 2023, Associate Dean Wright presented the yield results for the first-year students entering in Fall 2023. A group of 3,517 first-year students was invited to the CHC for Fall 2023, which was predicted to yield a goal of 325 students. Initial yield results for UCI were strong, but fewer students this year accepted their invitation to join the CHC by the deadline. Consequently, the CHC invited a waiting list of 724 students, as well. As of May 22, 378 students had submitted a positive statement of intent to register (SIR) to UCI and accepted admission to CHC. This is a good admissions result, and given summer melt behavior by students, should result in the CHC nearly reaching its yield goal.

- e. Diversity in Admissions. Based on approval from Vice Provost Michael Dennin in 2013, the CHC has increased in size by roughly 45% so that its population is now 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 more holistic reviews of prospective CHC first-year students, also begun in 2013.

The CHC's first generation and low-income populations have been growing, and among this current group of 378 incoming first-year students, 56% are low income, and 58% are first generation college students.

Honors to Honors is a program that 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 director. About 120 transfer students enter the CHC each year through this program. Honors to Honors takes place through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and CHCB is not involved in that process.

#### D. Election of the Chair for 2023-24

Ray Klefstad was unanimously elected CHCB Chair for 2023-24 (Meeting of May 22, 2023).

### 3. Membership

Liz Glynn, Claire Trevor School of the Arts  
Michael Parsons, School of Biological Sciences  
Ming Leung, The Paul Merage School of Business  
Drew Bailey, School of Education  
Elizabeth Read, The Henry Samueli School of Engineering  
Theodore Gideonse, College of Health Sciences  
Sarah Farmer, School of Humanities  
Ray Klefstad, Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences  
Charles Zender, School of Physical Sciences  
Lee Cabatingan, School of Social Ecology  
Jiawei Chen, School of Social Sciences  
Christopher Tan, ASUCI student representative and CHC 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 Collegium