University Committee on Honors Programs Annual Report 2024–2025



Actions Taken in Fall 2024

Regular business: Meetings held on 10/7/24 and 11/4/2024

Significant areas of conversation:

Campbell Hall: Throughout the year, the Interim Dean provided background on the renovation to Campbell Hall, including updates on fundraising and gifts received. The renovation is designed to bring living and academic spaces together. The building is on track to open Fall 2025, to house 300 students.

Honors Experiences: Consideration of honors courses, sections, and options remains the major focus of UCHP. Some students have difficulty meeting their requirement for 8 honors experiences, due to lack of adequate offerings in certain colleges. There is greater desire for clarity surrounding honors options on the part of faculty. The committee also began to explore some of the structural issues that stand in the way of increasing honors offerings, including uncompensated labor for faculty as well as the College itself not having funding to encourage colleges/departments to offer adequate sections and courses. The committee reviewed "1-pagers" for Honors Options to be disseminated to the colleges' academic advisors as a way to clarify expectations for faculty and students.

Actions Taken in Spring 2025

Regular business: Meetings held on 2/21/2025 and planned for 4/25/2025

Significant areas of conversation:

HC response to executive orders: Interim Dean Chambers discussed with the committee the decision to change the working title of one position. The HC has sought guidance from General Counsel regarding scholarships and donor agreements; all awards will be reviewed to make sure in compliance with federal law.

Other business:

Search for Dean of the Honors College: The committee was charged with nominating a representative to serve on the search committee for the Dean of the

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Honors College. The representative will update UCHP about the process at our final meeting of the year.

Requested Support from the Steering Committee and/or the Office of Academic Governance

It would be useful for this committee to have a standing meeting time that is publicized in advance of elections to the committee, to allow for greater attendance and participation. A standing meeting time was requested in the report submitted by previous committee chair Eric Torng in 2019 and Robin Silbergleid in 2024.

Report submitted by committee chair: Robin Silbergleid (Professor, Department of English; rep from College of Arts and Letters)