Committee Name: University Committee on Honors Programs  
Chairperson: Professor Tess Tavormina  
Meetings Held: November 23, 2009; January 18, 2010; March 4, 2010

1. A discussion on the civic engagement opportunities for Honors College Members. Dean Jackson-Elmoore explained that it will not be possible to make this a ninth experience for Honors students. Instead it will be factored in as one of the existing eight experiences. The committee discussed options and concerns; their goal is to have students identify opportunities for civic engagement in partnership with faculty and/or the CSLCE.

A document indicating Points of Consideration by the HCSAC (Honors College Student Advisory Committee), HC Academic Specialist, Advisers and the Dean, had been sent to UCHP prior to the meeting. It was remarked upon, and the points in that document were well taken by the UCHP. The committee endorsed going forward with the option.

2. The Committee discussed a proposal that Professor Michael Rip from the Program in Public Health in the College of Human Medicine brought to the table. It consists of admitting a select number of HC students to a 4+1 Public Health degree (Bachelors, MPH). This is an on-line program and would permit students to complete the two degrees in parallel. It is proposed to admit a specific number (about ten) HC student each year. This would require coordination between the HC and the Program in Public Health with respect to selection and advising of students. The committee somewhat indicated support of the proposal, some members raised the issue as to how to open the door for other programs to work with the HC in a similar capacity.

3. A discussion on whether H-experience course substitutions should be granted for courses taken by students prior to joining the HC. At present, students who enter the Honors College after their freshmen year may include as an Honors experience any specifically indicated H courses that they had completed prior to joining the HC. However, such students may not retroactively substitute for required courses on the basis of alternative courses taken prior to joining the HC. Some concerns were raised by student representatives, that this may not be fair to students who join the HC after their freshmen year. Further discussion raised alternative concerns to this proposal, and it was remarked that a key aspect of the educational benefit of an H-experience course substitution derives from the consultation between the student and the adviser.
4. The discussion of the use of graduate courses by HC members were among the topics; The committee Chairperson suggested that UCHP provide more visible links to the descriptions of graduate courses which might be selected by Honors College students. Dean Jackson-Elmoore reported that the Honors College website includes a link to such course descriptions in the *Bulletin of Courses*.

5. Workshop on use of library-based research resources for HC members were among the topics of discussion. Half of the committee members already have arrangements for such instructions for their students and the other half indicated that it would be helpful for students in their colleges. The Chairperson will talk with a contact person at the MSU’s Library and with an HC academic Specialist and HC NIFS coordinator about arranging a pilot workshop.

6. There were also the discussions of Dean Jackson-Elmoore’s report on recruiting, admissions and various scholarships in which she encouraged faculty members to volunteer to serve on selection committees. The topic of HC Liaison to Colleges was brought up and discussed as well.