Committee Name: University Committee on Honors Program

Chairperson: Eric K. Torng, Associate Professor-Tenure System

Programmatic Changes

1. The Dean’s office is in the process of re-imagining the Honors College. The goal is to identify what the Honors College would be if we were to launch it without worrying about the existing structure. This will be an ongoing process spanning more than just this year.

2. The Honors College is piloting three new forms of enhancing research experiences for students.
   - The first cohort (4-5 students) will have two years of research experience funded.
   - The second cohort of campus admits will have 5 students in a one year program.
   - The third cohort will have 1 or 2 students who research shows may especially benefit from such experiences.

3. The Honors College will be rolling out a new Honors Service week for incoming first year students.

4. UCHP discussed plans for changing the Academic Scholars program. This is currently a two year stand-alone program. The new program would focus on high achieving low income students with a goal of having successful students become Honors College students. This program is being piloted this year.

5. The Honors College is working with the College of Social Sciences and the College of Arts and Letters to discuss how their independent scholars programs interact with the Honors College programs.

Logistical Items

6. The Honors college is putting together a new online Honors option form. The new format and procedure’s goal is to streamline the process and help both students and faculty. It will also allow the HC to determine whether there is a bottleneck somewhere and why students are sometimes not being successful in completing their H requirements. It should work in the following way: the student starts the form and must fill part of it, and then it goes to the faculty electronically to be signed. There is an option for the form to be sent to the department, but this is not in principle necessary. After the grades are submitted, then again an active form will go back to the faculty, who will approve it as completed. If the form is not approved, faculty will get reminders after the due date. The only apparent drawback is that Multiple H-options can no longer be submitted using a single form.

7. The new APP process seems to be moving smoothly.

8. We updated one question on the annual honors college survey to graduating seniors.

9. The Honors college approved a request from the Engineering College to pilot an Honors Option for an internship experience in engineering. After getting feedback from students and faculty, the goal would be to make this an ongoing Honors Option course.