University Committee on Honors Programs (2015-2016)

Discussion items

- This past year was the 60th year anniversary of the Honors College.
- UCHP briefly discussed a potential Freshman Study Away program. A specific initiative with Auburn University was discussed. There was general support for the initiative if logistical issues including timing could be worked out. The Dean may ask UCHP to help drive this potential initiative next year.
- Dean Jackson-Elmoore is exploring the idea of an Honors capstone experience. This is in early planning phases. UCHP provided some feedback on the idea including whether it could be a group experience rather than an individual experience. The Dean would pilot this using a small number of programs if this were to move forward.
- The Dean presented a demographic summary of the Honors College for 2015-2016.
- We spent significant time discussing the new Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (E&I) including having a presentation by director Neil Kane. We discussed two specific issues in depth.
  - First, could students use one course to count as both an E&I experience and an Honors experience? The general summary was that this would be possible but that something extra would be expected. With respect to logistics, UCHP suggested there should be an Honors option form, an E&I experience form, and then a form for making an E&I form connected to an H-option. It was suggested that the H-option form could have a check box that indicates this is also an E&I option.
  - Second, UCHP decided that we should help our departments and colleges identify courses that would be appropriate electives for the E&I minor. We should work in concert with our department and college undergraduate curriculum committee units in doing so. For regular students, the courses would need to be approved by university bodies. For Honors College students, we should be able to get these approved using regular Honors waiver procedures. The goal was to identify these courses by mid-fall 2016 so that we could move these through the university academic governance process.
- In the past year, a new APP process was implemented. We attempted to get feedback, but we received only a handful of responses. We spent some time discussing when to email reminders to faculty about the new APP process and settled on two timings: roughly the end of year (March/April) as students prepare to enroll in courses and mid-August by which time students should have enrolled in courses and completed their APP. We also suggested integrating degree navigator HC tools in the APP process.
- We spent some time discussing surveys of Honors College students. One option is to piggy back on the existing survey done by the student advisory council. Another is to piggy back on the senior survey. We ended with some sentiment to develop our own survey.
- We also discussed whether UCHP should interact with the Honors College Dean’s advisory council. Perhaps we could have a joint meeting.

Report submitted by Eric Torng, Engineering UCHP representative and Chair of UCHP 2015-2016