HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY MEETING
April 23, 2012


Honors Students Present: E. Bosworth, H. Larsen, M. Sauer, G. Tanner

Guests: President Chicoine, Provost Nichols

Announcements

Upcoming Honors events/projects are:

- Foundation board meeting
- Women Shaping Their World book signing
- Dean’s Development Advisory Council Meeting
- Honors Senior Showcase – May 2-3, 2pm-5pm, USU Crest Room
- Honors Medallion Ceremony – May 4, 3:30 pm, USU Campanile Room/Hobo Lounge
- Leadership Advantage Workshop – May 7-8, Dykhouse Center
- Pre-registration of incoming Honors freshmen
- New student orientation
- Systems Dynamics Workshop – August 20-22
- Oak Lake Hike & Read and Awkward Party
- NCHC, Boston

Introductions

Guests President Chicoine and Provost Nichols were welcomed as guests. Faculty and students introduced themselves.

Goals, Mission, Etc.

T. Nichols provided a handout and presentation of Honors growth, goals, opportunities, challenges, mission and vision. Feedback included:

- Opportunities for Honors students in academic-funded research or assisting Honors faculty.
- Other university models indicate that reaching into the “upper group” for teaching assistants, as opposed to grad assistants, has proven beneficial to the growth of the Honors students and college/program.
- Senior thesis.
- HON 100 TA’s – more engagement, better connection with students, more responsibilities, workshop for TA’s.
- Size of Honors classes was discussed with the suggestion that some sections be capped at 15 as opposed to 24. A concern about capping Honors sections at a lower number was that more sections may be required in order to accommodate all students interested in that particular course/section. It was noted that finding personnel to teach Honors sections was difficult for some departments. Faculty and departments, in consultation with the Dean, can set course caps as needed.
- Honors College faculty availability growing from a small incentive to a replacement model (replacing an instructor who will be teaching an Honors section) was discussed. Teaching assistants could be utilized in this area.
- Partnerships and strategic planning between colleges and departments is vital.
- Faculty who teach or want to teach Honors sections – could there be an application or proposal process?
- Customized teaching templates (based on course).
- Is there institutional support for service-learning and diversity experiences in Honors sections?

Attendees were advised that the Teaching Learning Center coordinates Service-Learning experiences and has a full-time grad assistant working in that area.
• Tracking students after they graduate.
• Student assistant in the Honors College.
• More publications out of Honors College (i.e. *Women Shaping Their World*).
• Technique sharing among faculty.
• Keep all grades and disciplines (freshmen, sophomores, etc.) involved with each other as opposed to segregating by grade and/or major.
• Interdisciplinary focus by traveling as a group on a study abroad (or even in the United States) experience.
• Summer international experience.
• Senior experience trip.

Other discussion included the Systems Dynamics Workshop which is much recommended by faculty and students who have attended.

Questions to consider:
• When do we know we’ve “arrived” at retention and graduation?
• What is the right mix of disciplines?
• Faculty strategic thinking, engagement and conversation?
• How does Honors fit into the growth of other departments?

Other points made were:
• An Honors Advisor would be able to advise students in all disciplines early on as to how Honors can fit into their major. This would increase retention and graduation.
• More student leadership in classrooms would provide opportunity and challenge and would also be helpful to departments that may be short on faculty for Honors sections.
• A short summer academy on Honors teaching should be considered.
• Empower student leaders to help advance Honors.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.
Honors Growth at SDSU
Enrollment & Continuing Enrollment
Honors Curriculum

- Increased numbers of Honors sections each year by ten.
- New general education courses.
- Dynamic series of Honors colloquia.
- General education, 120 credits, priority registration.
- New courses including
  - Introduction to independent study
  - Text and context of human thought
  - Honors in agriculture courses
  - New Honors freshman seminar

Student & Faculty Engagement

- Regional and national participation, presentations and publications.
- Living & learning community
- Honors College Student Organization
- Honors convocation
- First Lady’s Literary Circle
Campus Engagement

- Recruitment of talented, motivated students
- Common Read and Griffith Lecture
- LEADSTATE –
  - Sophomore leadership development program
- Undergraduate Research programming
  - Mentorships and fellowships
  - Schultz-Werth awards
  - Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Day

Resource Development

- Internal funding sources, e.g. Academic and Scholarly Excellence awards, have helped support common read, LEADSTATE and undergraduate research.

- External grants:
  - e.g. USDA Honors in Agriculture

- Private gifts:
  - Fishback matching challenge and beyond...
Aspirations and Possibilities

- Endowed programmatic support to enhance:
  - Faculty engagement
  - Honors course enrichment
  - Travel opportunities; e.g., Honors international experience
  - Service learning and diversity Leadership development
  - Undergraduate research opportunities

- Excitement around new Honors Hall.
  - Living and learning
  - Instructional space
  - Community building – basement and courtyard

- Premiere student scholarships

- Honors College as a ‘pillar of excellence’ for SDSU’s strategic future

Challenges and Opportunities

- Quality and growth
- Enhanced base budget for departmental compensation and expanded offerings
- College and departmental collaboration
- Incentivizing deeper faculty engagement
- Student retention and graduation
- Facilities...growing into the new space
- Person power – Honors College advisor
- Continued fundraising
Mission & Vision

**Mission:**
The mission of SDSU’s Honors College is to provide talented, motivated students with a personalized, engaging, distinctive academic and enrichment educational experience that positions them for success as lifelong learners and leaders.

**Vision:**
Through the quality and diversity of its students, faculty, curricula and programs, the Honors College is a positive, dynamic, innovative, ‘value added’ presence in the South Dakota State University community. We will attract, retain and provide extraordinary educational experiences for the best and brightest students of the region.

Guiding Values

- Academic quality
- Collaboration, integration, coordination
- Diverse perspectives and multidisciplinary approaches
- Engagement, service and leadership development
- Community
- Innovation and experimentation
- Global perspectives and cross cultural competence
- Broader view; regional, national, international engagement
- Research, scholarship and creative activities
HONORS UPDATES

Looking back:
- Convocation
- Undergraduate Research
- Mentorships
- Schultz-Werth
- LEADSTATE
- Lit Circle Moments
- Honors TA's
- UMHC

Looking ahead:
- Foundation board
- End of year festivities
- Women Shaping Their World
- Development council ...
- Senior showcase 5/2-3 2-5 pm
- Medallion ceremony 5/4 3:30 p.m.
- USU 169
- Leadership advantage 5/7-8
- Pre-registration
- New student orientation
- Systems dynamics 8/20–22
- Hike and read and awkward party
- NCHC Boston