



MINUTES
Honors Advisory Board Meeting
10/03/2013 11:00 a.m. 3047 Hazel Hall

This inaugural meeting of the Honors Advisory Board was convened at 11:05 a.m.

Present were: E. Beteck (Library); J. Blackmon (SPHS); V. Diriker (Development); D. Johnson (SAP); J. Kellam (Financial Aid); S. Krah (CAAS); M. Lane (Honors; Chair); M. Odinakachukwu (Student; HSA); A. Ogin (Student; HSA); K. Quinn (SBT); C. Reddick (Advancement); A. Roberts (Honors); W. Robinson (Public Relations); W. Turner (Honors)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Lane welcomed those in attendance, thanking them for their service as charter members of the honors program advisory board, and asked each to introduce him/herself.

II. The Scope and Function of the Advisory Board and The Roles of its Members

Lane offered a brief overview of best practices in honors education, citing characteristics common to honors programs as identified by the National Collegiate Honors Council. One feature lacking in the program here at UMES was broadly-inclusive shared governance. The advisory board has been created to repair this historic deficiency and to ensure compliance of our program with the national standard.

Lane provided details on how/why the advisory board members were identified as participants and discussed how each individual's expertise and experience would prove invaluable as honors forges new paths and partnerships to develop and enhance the undergraduate honors experience that, in the past, has been viewed as little more than a scholarship program. The Honors Program Strategic Plan will be the guide that navigates the program's activity in all academic, co-curricular, and community aspects, with the anticipated result being the transition to collegiate status.

III. Discussion Related to the (Draft) Honors Strategic Plan

The floor was opened for general discussion about the draft iteration of the honors strategic plan, circulated prior to the meeting via email attachment. Among the items discussed:

Robinson inquired whether NCHC performs accreditations of honors programs. Lane explained that it is not NCHC practice at the current time, but that the organization has been in dialogue for years about this. UMES is an affiliated member university of NCHC and also with NAAHP (serving HBCUs); NRHC (Northeast regional); and MCHC (MD state). Robinson recommended placing logos of these organizations on our website. (Lane has since done so).

Diriker pointed out that the proposed strategic plan is an ambitious one and sought reassurance that the goals listed could be satisfied in two years. Lane responded that, having undergone a similar program to college transition at his former institution in a similar time-frame, he was confident that, with good communication and cooperation, the plan was feasible. He clarified that some of the proposed goals would approach satisfaction and that these would "roll over" as the eventual Honors College's strategic priorities.

Reddick asked whether the current operating space was sufficient. Lane indicated that it was not. Sharing the SAP Dean's suite communicates a message to the broader campus that other schools' participation is not expected or is restricted. The erstwhile Honors Library, containing books, magazines, computers for student use, graduate school / study abroad flyers, and other resources, was, until recently a suitable location for student interaction (study; club meetings; small academic or social events programming). Honors students no longer have access to this room (600 ft²); it has been converted to the Dean's conference room. Finally, Lane expressed concerns about student record confidentiality – Ms. Turner, the program associate, is inappropriately located in the Dean's reception area. As she is responsible for the program's financial records, scholarship information, etc., she routinely must discuss personal financial information with students in a public venue because there is no other place to have these conversations in confidence.

Beteck, recognizing an opportunity for the Frederick Douglass Library to assist, offered to identify an honors-dedicated library liaison with whom honors students could communicate to reserve room(s) for related programs, study sessions, etc. Thank you!

Quinn (and others) asked about the application and admissions processes and how scholarships are allocated. Turner provided clarification re: scholarships. Lane explained that admission to honors is now by separate application, to include a resume and an essay in response to an honors-specific prompt. Recruiters have paper copies that they have been distributing during their fairs/visits. Honors is working with them and with Computing to make the necessary changes to the admissions portal.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted for comments, queries, and corrections by Michael E. Lane, Director, Honors Program, 10/04/2013