



**MINUTES**  
**Honors Council Meeting**  
**11/13/2013 4:00 p.m. 2051 Hazel Hall**

This inaugural meeting of the Honors Council was convened at 4:07 p.m.

**Present were:** B. Clinton (Human Ecology); V. Hsia (Pharmacy); M. Lane (Honors); L. Marsh (Agriculture, Food & Resource Sciences); A. Roberts (Honors); D. Sauder (Natural Sciences); T. Smith (English & Modern Languages); A. Stockus (Engineering & Aviation Sciences); V. Sum (Business, Management & Accounting); W. Talley (Rehabilitation Services); M. Treuth (Exercise Science).

I. Welcome & Introductions

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

II. The Scope and Function of the Honors Council 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. An advisory board, council, and honors student association have 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 Councilors 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. Distribution of Relevant Materials

Four resources were distributed (and are available via the Honors Program's website):

<http://www.umes.edu/honors/council/proposals.html>

- A. Honors Council: Overview (scope; function; membership; responsibilities)
- B. Strategic Plan: Executive Summary
- C. Honors Programs of Study: Proposal Draft (description of 4-year vertical plan)
- D. Senior Honors Thesis: Considerations

IV. First Charge to the Councilors: Development of Senior Honors Thesis Course Descriptions

Councilors were urged to make their first curricular priority the drafting, in conjunction with departmental curriculum committees, descriptions of the Senior Honors Thesis Course (DEPT 496) in their respective units. It is anticipated that these will be forwarded through the various approval processes during the Spring semester. Document D above serves to guide these discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted for comments, queries, and corrections by Michael E. Lane, Director, Honors Program, 12/11/2013