



MINUTES
Honors Council Meeting
12/11/2013 4:00 p.m. 2051 Hazel Hall

This meeting of the Honors Council was convened at 4:04 p.m.

Present were: B. Clinton (Human Ecology); B. Hudson (Fine Arts); R. Johnson (Mathematics & Computer Science); M. Lane (Honors); L. Marsh (Agriculture, Food & Resource Sciences); M. Martin-Carabello (Pharmacy); T. Smith (English & Modern Languages); V. Sum (Business, Management & Accounting); W. Talley (Rehabilitation Services); M. Treuth (Exercise Science); E. Yilmaz (Technology).

I. Approval of Minutes: 11/13/13 Meeting

A motion was made (Smith) and seconded (Talley) to approve the minutes of the 11/13/13 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

II. General Honors Updates

Lane provided updates relative to past honors activity and future initiatives on all fronts (academic; co-curricular; residential; social; etc.), reminding Council members of resources available:

Meeting minutes, agenda, and curricular proposals are available via the Honors Council website, under "Governance": (<http://www.umes.edu/honors>);
Honors quarterly newsletter, *Volamus* (<http://www.umes.edu/honors/newsletter.html>);
Honors monthly activity reports (<http://www.umes.edu/honors/reports.html>).

III. Discussion: Senior Honors Thesis Course Proposals

Of critical importance to the development of a 4-year vertical curricular model for honors is the development and implementation of Senior Honors Thesis courses in all undergraduate major degree areas. Councilors are charged with collaborating with their departments' curriculum committees, colleagues, chairs, and deans to draft course proposals, including sample syllabi, and to begin the proposal approval process. It is advantageous to have these proposals fully drafted and approved through the School level before the end of Spring 2014, so that they will be presented en masse at the early fall Senate/Assembly meeting.

IV. Additional Items Considered

- A. Website visibility. Marsh pointed out that the honors website location is not prominently featured on the UMES main page. Lane concurred and indicated that most institutions provide a link to their Honors Program/College directly under "Academics". Hopefully, this will be addressed when a new UMES webmaster is named and begins revisions.
- B. Freshman Honors Seminar. Lengthy discussion ensued re: how the projected, required, 3-hour Freshmen Honors Seminar will count in General Education core and within each major area. Johnson expressed his belief that honors students should be held to complete the seminar as part and parcel of belonging to honors (as an additional program requirement). Talley pointed out that students in most major areas have electives that could be reserved for this seminar (and/or the thesis).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted for comments, queries, and corrections by Michael E. Lane, Director, Honors Program, 02/12/2014