**Honors Council**

**Meeting: Wednesday, February 6, 2019**

**5:00 p.m., 161 Appalachian Hall**

**\*\* MINUTES \*\***

1. Meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.
2. PRESENT: Mira Waits (ART), Lynn Sieffermann (BIO), Raghu Mohan (ComSci), Jennifer Wilson (ENG), Cole Edwards (GEOL), Herman van Werkhoven (ExSci), Elizabeth Shay (GEOG/PLN), Jean-Francois Fournier (LLC), Bill Cook (MAT), Laura Ammon (P&R), Erin Bouldin (P H), Richard Gray (PHY/AST), Lynn Mosteller (PSY), Emily Dakin (SW), Susan Doll (STBE), Paulette Marty (THR), Heather Waldroup (ART/HON), Jeff Vahlbusch (LLC/HON).
3. A motion to approve the Minutes from November 14, 2018, was made (B Cook, C Edwards, second) and approved.
4. Update on Medical Humanities minor: this has been turned over to Arts and Sciences and a supplemental list of courses that have also counted in the past have been drawn up. Ted Zerucha will remain the advisor for the time being.
5. Discussion of Honors faculty governance:
	* Emails from Brian Burke and Marianne Suggs, who were not able to attend, were shared.
	* Heather W gave an overview of the current system.
	* Jeff V added, prior to the formation of the Honors College, an Honors Program existed dating back to the 70s. Honors Council was the governing body for the Honors Program. When the college was established, it was decided and voted on to create a different governance structure for the college itself.
	* Susan D: Recent work by the Honors College to reach out to and include departmental and Walker College of Business honors students in the *Honors Wednesday Memo* and events are appreciated. Continuing efforts to create a university honors community are really important. ASU’s program could be defined as ‘everyone who is honors’, then divided into college and departmental areas. The structure as it is today still makes too big of a distinction between university vs departmental honors. Have an honors student community. There are certainly different questions involving admissions, etc – commonality but also unique issues. Consider setting up a structure that doesn’t create divisions.
	* Jeff’s response: National trends in Honors are creating a “meet them where they come in” kind of structure: Honors colleges are developing different program pathways fro students who need and want four years of Honors work, or who enter with an associate’s degree, or who might want to do “thesis only.”
	* Susan asked for guidelines for how to work with transfer students who might want to do Honors, and how to identify qualified transfer students.
	* Lynn M re recruiting transfer students: Psychology will have a conversation about this soon.
	* Lynn S noted that Bio had a conversation about transfer students in Bio.
	* Jeff V suggested a future Honors Council meeting with Jane Rex and others from the Office of Transfer Services.
	* Hermann asked: why does the honors advisory board still exist? That we should have students in the honors council is important, but what does that mean? We should include students in decision making.
	* Emily D: please have no more councils or boards than is necessary, for everyone’s sake.
	* Susan D: each group or council should have unique mission and function; if they ask different kinds of questions they could have different groups.
	* Bill C: making Honors Council any bigger “sounds like a bad idea”… makes sense to have a different group that focuses on university honors concerns, and students can be involved.
	* Paulette: it would be good to have students in the room in Honors Council to discuss impact of decisions, such as splitting the Honors thesis into 1-3 credits.
	* Heather: mentioned an Honors College group that met once or twice in Spring 2017 to discuss issues around diversity/inclusion. This could be included in governance.
	* On the matter of the Honors Faculty group in the current governance system, Jeff V. noted that it seems to be modeled on the affiliate faculty groups in Global Studies; Judaic/Holocaust/Peace Studies; and Women/Gender/Sexuality Studies.
	* Laura A discussed specific issues with phil/religion. Small department; rare that a faculty in p&r could teach an HON course because of credit hours, but very vibrant departmental Honors Program, with faculty teaching Honors cut-outs and sometimes courses cross-listed with HON courses. How can a faculty member thus be recognized for this Honors work? How do we recognize and include faculty who are doing Honors work but not necessarily plugged into the Honors College?
	* Jeff noted re honors faculty and faculty who would like to teach Honors courses: why would we erect barriers? The Honors College is the only college at Appalachian without its own faculty. Potentially, therefore, the faculty of the Honors College are the faculty of the whole university.
	* Herman: to him, having honors affiliate status could be an advertisement for these faculty members
	* Paulette noted, you could still do that without having an official designation.
	* Heather proposed the idea of having a longer list of people involved in honors in various ways.
	* Paulette asked, how to maintain this list? It will eventually be half the faculty on this campus.
	* Hermann: honors faculty status should mean something special – peer review for honors courses?
6. The meeting adjourned at 6 pm (P Marty, H van Werkhoven, second).

Respectfully submitted for review this February 7, 2018, by Heather Waldroup.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be March 13, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in 161 Appalachian Hall