**Honors Council**

**Meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

**5:00 p.m., 187 Appalachian Hall**

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

1. Meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: LS Jones (HON/BIO), L Emery (PSY), S Doll (TED), D Parks (ComSci), M Adams (DAN), M Howell (SW), V Klima (MAT), A Sterling-Hellenbrand (GLS), R Crepeau (Geo/Pln), D Wheeler (CHM), J Toub (Art), S Jessee (HIS), C Claassen (ANT), H van Werkhoven (ExSci), H Waldroup (Art/Hon).

ABSENT: K Ledford (ApStud), L Sieffermann (BIO), L Puckett (CHM), J Gray (COM), E Peterson (PS/CJ), D Orvis (ENG), C Thaxton (ENS), C Gu (GEO), J Gonzalez (GLS/IDS), B Weiner (HIS), A Fisher (LLC), L Ammon (P&R), R Gray (PHY – OCSA), E Folts (SOC).

1. A motion to approve the Minutes from April 2, 2015, was made (M Howell, V Klima, second) and approved with one abstention.
2. V Klima addressed the issue of requiring students to maintain the GPA needed for admission into, and graduation from, an honors program in order to continue in the departmental honors program. This would allow individual honors directors to remove students from the program if their GPA drops below a level that the student would be able to raise again before graduation, if needed to ensure seats in honors seminars, etc. HLW will investigate making a global catalog change to this effect in the fall. A motion was introduced (D Parks, S Doll, second) supporting this change, and passed unanimously.
3. A discussion ensued around ensuring consistency between the language describing a department’s honors program in the Undergraduate Bulletin, and the actual practice of the program. In particular, universal protocols such as GPA requirements and committee makeup should be reflected in the catalog language, while flexible terms (such as formatting requirements for theses) could be described in a departmental honors handbook maintained by the honors director. HLW will re-address this in the Fall.
4. A discussion ensued around requiring thesis defenses for all students seeking University honors, regardless of whether their departmental honors program requires it. The honors council supported this recommendation with a voice vote.
5. The meeting adjourned at 6 pm (V Klima, A Sterling-Hellenbrand, second).

Respectfully submitted for review this 7th of May, 2015, by Heather Waldroup.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, at 5:00 p.m. in 187 Appalachian Hall.