

## Minutes

### University Honors Committee

September 14, 2006

Present: Joe McGinn (ex officio), Liz Miller (student representative), Patricia Lally, Jeff Walsh, Jackie Whitling, John Wilson

1. The meeting began at 1:00 pm.
2. J. McGinn announced that the second student position on the committee was in the process of being filled.
3. The committee asked if J. Whitling was willing to continue serving as chair. J. Whitling agreed to serve as chair and volunteered to take minutes for this meeting. The other members will rotate serving as secretary for future meetings.
4. J. McGinn began with a history/overview of the Honors Program. Currently, there are 238 students in Honors and the First Year Experience programs. The program continues to grow.
5. Some of the duties of the Honors Committee were discussed. In general, the committee is responsible for overseeing the Honors Program. Specific activities include evaluation of applications for the Summer Study Abroad program and evaluation of applications to determine distribution of various academic scholarships within Honors.
6. This year, J. McGinn will hold informational meetings with each class of students, Freshmen through Senior, rather than the entire group of students.
7. Various individuals will be receiving website training in order to update and maintain the Honors webpage.
8. The two students (Karissa Fahnestock and Lisa Krape) who represented the University in year's Summer Abroad Program to Ghana had a wonderful trip. There will be a reunion at Cheney University, the host institution, later this month of all students who attended as well as the Honors Directors of the PA-SSHE institutions.
9. Summer Orientation for incoming students went well.
10. The summer book discussion also went well. Additional books will be reviewed for future book discussions.
11. The majority of students who attended the Spring Regional Conference in Pittsburgh, PA gave presentations. Besides J. McGinn, Committee member J. Wilson also attended.
12. Available space for the Honors Program to hold activities, discussions, and meetings is limited. Finding additional space is still a concern.
13. This fall, the National Honors Conference will be held in Philadelphia, PA. There will be at least seven presenters. J. McGinn plans to take several students to this event.
14. The regional meeting will be held in Rhode Island in the spring.
15. J. McGinn presented a proposal to make the senior capstone project a requirement for all students in the program. At other institutions this is common practice. At LHU, it's optional and students who complete the capstone along with the necessary Honors credit requirements receive "University Honors With Distinction" on their diploma. Those who only complete the necessary credit requirements receive "University Honors" on their diploma.

16. J. McGinn proposed that “University Honors With Distinction” be reserved for those students who have done study abroad work or complete some other international experience, for example, obtain an international minor or foreign language. This could also lead to our program becoming a “Global Honors Program”.
17. Concerns were addressed regarding both proposals including discouraging students from participating in Honors as well as restricting some students from achieving “University Honors With Distinction”.
18. J. McGinn volunteered to draft some additional proposals for the committee to review.
19. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline M. Whiting  
chair and acting secretary, Honors Committee