

Honors Faculty Committee
Sept 14, 2021 | Minutes

Members in Attendance: Lisa Wood, Jody Davis, Jill Rucker, Isabel Whitehead, Kelly Vierck, Jamie Baum, Gisela Erf, Margaret W., Michael Popp, Jen Becnel, and Mahendran Balasubramanian.

1. Approval of March 2021 meeting minutes – (1st Kelly V. , 2nd Jamie B.)
2. Departmental Updates
 - Michael Popp (rep from AEAB) new to committee
 - Updates from Representatives:
 - ANSC: several faculty members have retired. Searching for new mentors for ANSC junior/senior students who were working with retired faculty members.
 - Need for departments to update honors website; look at your departmental mentor list and send any changes to Dr. Wood or Isabel; Needs to stay as current as possible
 - Due by September 30
3. Master list and honors + honors eligible by department should be ready for distribution next week (September 24, 2021)
 - Approximately 224 honors students; 149 honors eligible students (not current honors students)
 - Master list will be available to departmental honors representatives to encourage students to consider honors or to ensure current honors students stay on track.
 - List will also identify students on honors probation
4. Bumpers research and creative grants
 - Guidelines going out this week to students (September 17)
 - Student due date: October 14
 - Same date as the SURF grant application
 - Minor change requested for approval by committee (Isabel)
 - Students graduating in December do not have same publication/presentation opportunities as May graduates
 - Proposed changes include students creating a blog post including what they did, how money was spent, digital photograph of the researcher and/or completed project in addition to the required project report
 - Motion to approve (1st Michael P. , 2nd Mahendran)→Motion passed
 - Awarded four grants in spring (~ \$2,600) to Faith Mills, Golda Nunneley, Kylanna Hardaway and Jordan Looper
 - Honors Committee reviewers – Jamie, Martin, Jen and Kelly
5. Director's Notes
 - Working to revive Global Food Seminar
 - Potential speaker for November 10

- Dr. Rattan Lal (soil science, climate change and agricultural production; awarded 2020 World Food Prize)
 - Convocation has been moved to virtual – October 30th
 - Prospective honors students for fall 2022
 - Honors College would like to propose two options for admission be approved for future use (added to the catalog)
 - Option 1 – 28 ACT; 3.5 minimum GPA
 - Option 2 – Test optional; 4.0 GPA; write essay
 - (1st Margaret W.; 2nd Kelly V.)—Approved
 - Build a library for examples of research and creative projects for students to quickly access from Bumpers Honors webpage
 - Consider also adding grant applications
 - Each representative should provide examples of honors thesis (ScholarWorks link) to include in the thesis library
 - Due October 19 to Isabel Whitehead
 - Form for tracking “drops” from Honors program—gain understanding of reasons why students are dropping as well as barriers to success
6. New Business--none
7. Adjourned (1st Michael P, 2nd Mahendran B.) at 3:44 pm

REMINDERS: For students completing honors and graduating this fall:

November 1—deadline to defend thesis or creative project

November 15—deadline to upload to ScholarWorks

Action Items for Honors Committee Members:

1. September 30—Examine Bumpers College Honors website, look at departmental member list, send changes to Isabel (iwhitehe@uark.edu)
2. October 19—Provide examples of honors thesis (links from ScholarWorks) to include in thesis library. Email to Isabel (iwhitehe@uark.edu)