

July 23, 2013

SUSAN STROME
Joint CAFA-CEP Honors Subcommittee, Chair

JOE KONOPELSKI
Academic Senate, Chair

JUNE GORDON
Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, Chair

TRACY LARRABEE
Committee on Educational Policy, Chair

COLLEGE PROVOSTS

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Fall 2014 First Year Honors Planning

I would like to thank the Joint CAFA-CEP Honors Subcommittee (JHSC) for its continuing leadership in working to establish a robust First-Year Honors Program (FYHP). The First-Year Honors Program is an important component of becoming a mature internationalized research university. The program has the potential to play a key role in the recruitment and retention of high-achieving students, including non-resident national and international students. I am committed to the success of the FYHP.

Below, I lay out plans for funding the 4th pilot year of the FYHP for the Fall 2014 cohort. These plans follow my July 10, 2013 meeting with JHSC Chair Strome and Faculty Director Raoul Birnbaum to discuss the July 1, 2013 Report, Honors Timeline & Responsibilities, and FYHP Working Plan, all from the JHSC.

Colleges Selection and Proposal Deadline

The FYHP report discusses the advantages of a smaller number of colleges (2, for streamlined logistics) or a larger number (5–6, for breadth of theme). For both the Fall 2012 and Fall 2013 cohorts, we began with a larger number of colleges and reduced based on recruitment outcomes.

For the Fall 2014 cohort, I will solicit proposals for the participation of a single pair of colleges with about 100–120 students, 2–3 honors sections per college. The colleges may be sister colleges, which would provide the opportunity for honors advising specialization and a high level of coordination, or they may be within the same group (East or West).

An ideal proposal would show a strong collaboration among Provosts, College Administrative Officer(s), and Preceptors. As a living and learning community, the connections among all these components are key. Proposals may consider the potential roles of past honors program students as mentors, RAs, or both, independent of college affiliation.

The JHSC timeline indicates that college selection should take place during the summer, and thus I request proposals by **Wednesday, August 21, 2013**. While the timeline proposes that the Honors Faculty Director should select the colleges during summer, I have decided that the choice should be made by a committee composed of Subcommittee Chair Strome, Director Birnbaum, and me.

If the college pair model proves successful in recruitment and student experience, I would consider increasing the honors opportunities to two pairs of colleges and about 200–250 students in Fall 2015 or, more likely, Fall 2016.

ELWR

Based on our discussion, ELWR satisfaction at application time will be expected of all students from high schools in which English is the primary language of instruction. Regent's Scholars who have not yet achieved ELWR satisfaction will be examined individually. Other high-achieving students may be included based on their computed index score and their likely achievement of ELWR satisfaction (for example, as indicated by an SAT score or AP score slightly below the threshold). An overview of our draft invitation framework is below. The framework will require data analysis to establish the correct thresholds.

Operationally, ideal recruitment outcomes would result in a C2 and a C1 honors section in each of the two colleges (logistically, a C1/C2 may be required), and one ELWR section that students from both colleges attend. Paired proposals should specifically address whether this class would have a blended curriculum, follow the curriculum of one college or the other, or have some other model.

Priority Enrollment

I agree with the JHSC report that priority enrollment could be a valuable addition to the First-Year Honors Program and its ability to recruit high-achieving students. I will work collaboratively to develop the issues and possibilities for CEP's consideration.

Notation on Transcript

I suggest that the titles of the Fall Core, Winter Seminar, and Spring Research Talks courses be specifically noted as being honors. This would require CEP approval.

Multi-year Honors

This is a good idea, and I will look forward to ideas from the Senate, Faculty Director, and participating colleges as to the best way to include opportunities in the second year.

Enrollment Targets

Following the new approach to frosh admissions of splitting the applicant pool and establishing targets individually, we will do so similarly with the FYHP. Initial targets for Fall 2014 will be 75–85 honors students enrolled from the California Resident/Bonafide pool, 10–20 from the domestic non-resident pool, and 20–30 from the international non-resident pool. The expected result is 4 to 6 sections of honors students.

Selection Criteria

Each pool will have selection criteria appropriate to that pool, and include at least one non-absolute criterion to enable reaching the target number. In all three pools, the ELWR requirement will be waived for students graduating from high schools in which the primary language of instruction is other than English. The draft California requirement is identical to the Fall 2013 criteria, with the exceptions that Regent's Scholars without ELWR be examined individually for potential invitation, and that a high Computed Index (CI) threshold may be set for invitation in the absence of ELWR satisfaction. The draft criteria, which will need further study and consultation with CAFA, are:

California Pool:

- a. Regent's Scholars with ELWR or case-by-case for non-ELWR.
- b. Holistic review scores 1–2.99 with ELWR.
- c. Computed Index (CI) of 6000 (?) with ELWR or CI of ????? without ELWR.
- d. Top 1% of high school class with ELWR.

National Non-Resident Pool:

- a. Regent's Scholars with ELWR or case-by-case for non-ELWR.
- b. Holistic review scores 1–2.99 with ELWR.
- c. Computed Index (CI) of 6000 (?) with ELWR or CI of ????? without ELWR.
- d. Top X% of the National Non-Resident Pool by CI with ELWR.

International Non-Resident Pool:

- a. Regent's Scholars with ELWR or case-by-case for non-ELWR.
- b. Holistic review scores 1–2.99 with ELWR.
- c. Computed Index (CI) of 6000 (?) with ELWR or CI of ????? without ELWR.
- d. Top X% of the International Non-Resident Pool by CI with ELWR.

Funding

Within this framework, I will continue to fund the Winter Seminars, Spring Research Talks and dinners, and the Faculty Director of Honors position. To be successful, the program will need to effectively recruit successful high-achieving resident and non-resident applicants who may otherwise choose alternative institutions. Once the college pair is selected, I will work with the Campus Advising Coordinator, Provosts and Preceptors, and Faculty Director to ensure support of the program.

Coordination and Naming

I will facilitate consideration during 2013-14 of options for second-year experiences, coordination with challenge programs, multiple entry points, and the potential for a unified name ("UCSC Scholars Program"?). It is critical that all enrichment programs at UCSC, including honors and challenge programs, be coordinated and presented to students as offering complementary instead of competitive paths of study. Currently, FYHP is first-year Fall entry and by invitation, and the proposed Challenge is first-year Spring entry and by application. I agree that some overlap in activities among honors and challenge students should be considered.

Confirmations

JHSC Chair Strome has confirmed that this is an appropriate path to follow for the Fall 2014 cohort. CAFA Chair Gordon has confirmed support for the above approach, though notes that due to the packed Fall agenda, consultation on criteria will require well-presented analysis to enable a quick decision on the exact proposed criteria.

Senate Oversight

I request from Chairs Konopelski, Larrabee, and Gordon a determination of the senate oversight structure for 2013-14. One possibility would be CEP oversight of programmatic changes, and CAFA oversight of application-based entrance criteria. Another possibility would be continuation of the JHSC. I would be happy to join a discussion of these and alternate structures, if desired.

I would like to thank the developers and supporters of the program. It is my great expectation that a decade from now, a thriving honors program will give much credit to the formational work of Faculty Director Birnbaum, IVPDUE Cioc, Cowell Provost Crosby, Crown Provost Ferguson, Kresge Provost Poblete, JHSC Chair Strome, and many others.

Sincerely,



Richard Hughey
Vice Provost and Dean of
Undergraduate Education

cc: Honors Faculty Director Birnbaum
Campus Coordinator of Academic Advising Sketo-Rosener
Enrollment Management AVC Whittingham
Academic Senate Office