



SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

September 12, 2013

Dear Vice Provost Hughey:

RE: Honors Proposal for 2014-15 academic year, revised

We write in response to the call for proposals. Cowell College and Crown College would like to apply to serve as the pair of honors colleges for Fall 2014 freshmen.

The combination seems ideal because Crown is known for its devotion to the sciences while Cowell is known for its foundation in the humanities. An engineering professor is the provost of Crown, and a social scientist is the provost of Cowell. Currently, Cowell has a strong arts presence as well as a foundation in the humanities.

Crown and Cowell also have experience with the honors program.

#### COWELL

The academic program at Cowell in 2014-2015 would include fall, winter, and spring components. In the Fall, we could provide one, two, or three sections of Cowell 80 (core course). In the Winter, we would provide one or two courses reserved for honors students. One course might be Raoul Birnbaum's course on Eastern philosophy and another might be Emily Sloan-Pace's course on Shakespeare. We would also consider offering courses on oral history and or social science inquiry. In the spring, Cowell would be pleased to have our students participate in the 2-unit seminar series along with Crown students. If students from the Challenge programs at Kresge, Merrill, and Stevenson were to join the spring seminar series, Cowell would be happy, but that is not a requirement of our participation.

Our senior preceptor, Beth Thompson, is designing a presentation called "advising advice for honors students." She would ideally like to present the information during a core course meeting, but she would also be willing to work with the residential life staff so that the presentation could be done one evening in Parkman House.

We would house the honors students together in Parkman House. This has worked well for us. We would provide only one or two special "honors" programs in the residence halls in the fall. Honors students would be invited to events at the provost's house.

Ideally, if we know early enough about the plans for Honors Fall 2014, we would recruit current honors students to serve as mentors for the new cohort.

#### CROWN

The academic program at Crown in 2014-2015 would include fall, winter, and spring components. In the fall, we could provide one, two, or three sections of Crown 80 (core course). In the winter, we would provide two courses reserved for honors students. We expect one course to be a repeat of the highly successful course offered by David Bernick on Extreme Environment Virology and a second undetermined course. Options for

second course include a course on the Philosophy of Science or one on some aspect of Ethics. In the spring, we would be pleased to continue participation in the 2-unit seminar series as we did last year.

We would continue to house the honors students together and we will work with the housing staff to provide special programming for the honors students. If possible, we will recruit current honors students to serve as mentors for the new cohort.

#### SYNERGIES

The Cowell-Crown team should have appeal to students who are interested in multi-disciplinary education. We believe that it would help our recruitment efforts to advertise early the specifics of the Cowell-Crown partnership. We also believe that Cowell students, many of whom are in the sciences, will be happy to have the option of taking winter courses at Crown and that the seminar series might be very successful.

We urge the VPDUE to work soon and closely with CEP to allow honors students to have priority enrollment. Other campuses use this carrot very effectively. Let's try to see the effects of priority enrollment on interest in the honors program.

Cowell and Crown can expand or contract in the number of sections of honors. We believe very strongly in maintaining very high standards. We would rather see fewer students who are extremely well-prepared than more students who are only moderately well-prepared.

#### RESIDENTIAL LIFE SUPPORT

The Cowell and Crown provosts elicited feedback from their respective CAOs about residential life support of the honors program at the two colleges. Cowell interim CAO, Adrienne Waite, and Crown CAO, Alex Belisario, each expressed support for the honors program and specifically mentioned residential and programmatic support for it. Both CAOs thought that recruiting an RA from this year's honors cohort would be helpful in creating appropriate programs for the 2014-15 cohort and have committed to housing the honors students together.

#### CORE COURSE

In order to keep the students at a similar level in the college core courses, Crown will accept all students who have yet to satisfy ELWR into Crown. If there is to be an odd number of sections overall, Crown should get the additional section, which will be the ELWR-unsatisfied section, then Crown and Cowell Colleges will have an equal number of sections that have satisfied ELWR. If there is an even number of sections between the two colleges, then one of Crown's sections will be the ELWR-unsatisfied section.

Sincerely yours,

Faye Crosby  
Cowell Provost

and

F. Joel Ferguson  
Crown Provost