

Honors Council Minutes

Date: 15th August 2008

Members present: Black (Student Council President), Buczala, Eisenstadt, Feldhaus, Hare, R. Hill, S. Hill, Melancon, Rubio, Smith, Tommerdahl

Members absent: Bryan, Hayes, Lowe

The meeting was called to order by Rubio (chair) on Friday 15th of August at 11:00am in Brown Hall 324

Item I

Rubio greeted the new members of the Council and announced that the new website is up and running. Rubio also mentioned that Lindsey Wilkerson will maintain and update the Honors Program website.

Item II

Rubio announced the subcommittees for the school year 2008-2009 and also handed out the list of duties for each subcommittee. The subcommittees and its members are:

- Quiz Bowl: Black; Buczala (chair), Palmer, Tommerdahl, 2 students to be named later
- Recruitment: Eisenstadt (chair), Hare, R. Hill, Melancon
- Retention: Bryan, Feldhaus, Hayes (chair); Lowe
- Scholarship: S. Hill, Rubio (chair)

Item III

The Honors Program Director was appointed. Buczala proposed Rubio as the Director, Eisenstadt seconded it and it was approved unanimously. Rubio accepted the position under the condition that the time will be retroactive to the school year 2007-2008. Rubio's term will be up at the end of school year 2009-2010 if he wishes not to renew.

Item IV

Rubio announced the dates for recruitment events. Rubio announced that the Honors Program display board needs to be redone completely. Melancon suggested that students can redo it. Rubio will give the board to the Recruitment subcommittee. The display board needs to be ready by the 5th of September.

The Council agreed that the next meeting can take place on a Friday. Rubio will send an e-mail to all the members with options of dates and times for the next meeting, which will take place towards the end of the fall semester.

Item V

Rubio announced that certain guidelines need to be addressed regarding GPA's. The new GPA requirements will apply to all students that start the Program starting in the school year 2008-2009. However, for the probationary period, Rubio proposed that if a student falls under the minimum GPA requirement to stay in the program, the student should be given a full year to bring the GPA to the Honors minimum standards. Moreover, the student needs to show progress after the first semester of the probationary period. As for the GPA requirement for ULM students that wish to join the Program, the Honors Council will consider the ACT scores as well as their current GPA. The Council will examine closely each applicant. Rubio will propose changes to the website to encourage current ULM students to apply for the Program.

Item VI

Advising will now be done by colleges. S. Hill suggested that for the Arts and Sciences College, faculty members should be assigned students according to their discipline.

Item VII

Rubio highlighted the lack of activities from the Honors Program. Black also pointed out the lack of Community Service from students in the program. Melancon, Black and Feldhaus suggested a few fundraiser activities.

Item VIII

Rubio announced the changes at the spring 08 graduation ceremony. The Council unanimously suggested that changes need to be made regarding the graduation ceremony procedure. Black said that some students have expressed concern regarding the graduation ceremony. Black also said that students wish to be recognized at graduation. The Council suggested that a request be made to come to a compromise. Rubio will ask students in the general meeting, which will take place the second week of classes, for further suggestions and then send a letter to the Provost.

Item IX

Buczala requested to have Honors students at the next Arts and Science Celebration that will take place in October.

Palmer suggested that all the colleges should offer some type of award for the winners of the Quiz Bowl. Rubio will send an e-mail to all the deans and ask for their thoughts and suggestions regarding the matter.

Item X

Adjournment was called at 11:55am.