Minutes

Commonwealth Honors College Council
Friday, April 11, 2014


Guest: Chancellor K. Subbaswamy

Minutes:
Minutes from March 14, 2014, approved.

Announcements

• Honors Research Grants and Fellowships – upcoming application review. Application deadline is the last week of April, assistance will be needed from CHC Council members, and as a high number of applications come from students in the sciences, additional CNS faculty will be needed as reviewers.

• Reminder regarding invitation to Melvin Howard Classroom Wing Dedication Ceremony in CHCRC upper courtyard, April 25, 12:45 p.m. Please RSVP to alumni@honors.umass.edu

• Reminder: Please come to the Undergraduate Research Conference, Friday, April 25, 2014. The event runs all day in the Campus Center, and students from all public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth will be presenting their work in oral and poster presentations. https://www.honors.umass.edu/undergraduate-research-conference

• Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA): https://www.honors.umass.edu/onsa
  o Fulbright Scholarships: Sent in 25 applications from UMass Amherst campus; 15 were recommended to the national level. Have been notified of eight awards so far (three undergraduates and four graduate students).
  o Goldwater Scholarships: three awarded to UMass Amherst Commonwealth Honors College students, and one Honorable Mention.

New Business

1. Meeting with Chancellor Subbaswamy – The Chancellor addressed the Council, followed by discussion.


Old Business

Updates from the Dean (Daniel Gordon)

- Referenced minutes of last meeting on yield among first-generation students applying for on-campus transfer into CHC. Next Phase: Creation of financial need-based Opportunity Scholarships using gift funds; ten scholarships of $600 per year, renewable for up to three years.

Any Other Business

1. CHCRC Classrooms and Room Choosing (Eddie Hull)
   - Elm House Classrooms: Working group proposed on availability for student use as gathering/quiet study common space in off-hours.
   - High demand for on-campus housing among returning students, including CHCRC.

2. CHC Council discussed Chancellor’s presentation – continued after Chancellor’s departure.

Committee Reports

Course (Meredith Lind) – See #2 and #3 under New Business

Program (Julian Tyson) – None

Policy (Cory Pols) – Committee met. Revising CHC’s “good standing” policy to be more in line with University’s while still keeping access to CHC fluid. Language of policy needs to be more descriptive about required vs encouraged. Need to get course requirement policies on SPIRE.

Academic Standards (Cory Pols) – Committee met. Looking to getting/vetting exemplary examples of proposals for 499 Thesis/Project and Honors Independent Study on web. Need “good” examples (not just “an example”) from every department of every type.

Reports from CHC Council Representatives on other Councils

Next Meeting

Friday 5/2/2014, 12:20pm – CHC Building, Room 160, Events Hall – East