Minutes

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Commonwealth Honors College Council

Friday, May 2, 2014

Julian Tyson, Chair


Minutes:  Minutes from the April 11, 2014, meeting approved.

Announcements

• Updates from Interim Dean (Daniel Gordon) (Handout)
  o CHC Incoming Fall 2014 Class – As of May 1st “deposit deadline,” higher than expected number of students. Plans in process to add honors classes, etc., to provide positive first-year experience.
  o Update on progress of searches for four additional joint Dept/CHC Faculty.
  o CHC & Diversity (Handout) – Yield effects of first-generation recruiting efforts very positive.
  o Undergraduate Research Conference – Over 1,000 students participated this year. Thank you to Melissa Woglom and Letha Gayle-Brissette.

• CHC Council thanked Interim Dean Gordon for productive term.

• Updates from CHC Council Chair (Julian Tyson)
  o New Faculty Senate website is up and undergoing edits. Please check it and give feedback.
  o Writing Conference/Teaching Commons Advisory Committee – Ideas for programming for faculty needed.

• Thank you to Council members for their service this past year (Julian Tyson and Daniel Gordon)

• Reminder: Celebration of Excellence, Honors Convocation for Graduating CHC Seniors, Mullins Center, Friday, May 9. Faculty are asked to arrive at the Green Room by 12:45 pm, in regalia.

New Business

• Thesis experience course 3-year re-approval: Political Science 499C/D, Honors Thesis Seminar: Power and Conflict in International Politics, 8 cr. (4+4) (Julian Tyson) APPROVED

• Project experience course 1-year approval: Accounting 499O, Honors Project Seminar: Emerging Issues in Accounting Practice, 6 cr. (Julian Tyson) APPROVED
• Motion from the Council: That the CHC Council authorize the Chair to work with the Dean and relevant executive officers of the college to expedite items of business over the summer when the Council is not in session. *(Julian Tyson)*
  
  **APPROVED**

  Note: Councils can e-mail Rules Committee over the summer, if actions needed when Faculty Senate not in session.

Old Business

Any Other Business

• Nursing 499K, Honors Internship, for Accelerated Second Bachelor’s degree in Nursing students: Rapid action needed on change in credits. Currently course approved for 9 credits; needs change to 7 credits for better correspondence with non-honors elements of program.  
  
  **APPROVED**

• Additional Announcements:
  
  o Integrative Learning Center, new academic classroom building, opening September 2014.
  
  o UMass Center at Springfield is opening. UMass Amherst is lead campus for the new satellite center. The center’s office is open to provide information, and classes will start September 2, 2014.

Committee Reports

Course *(Meredith Lind)*

• J. Tyson – Thank you to committee members.

Program *(Julian Tyson)* – No Report.

Policy *(Cory Pols)*

• (Handout) – Clarification of policy on “Honors Thesis or Honors Project: Oral Defense”: faculty committee presence needed and oral defense goals met even if alternative venue is chosen (e.g., if presentation is at Undergrad Research Conference)
  
  **APPROVED**

• (Handout) – “CHC Good (Academic) Standing Policy”: Priority attention needed for updated policy to be in force by upcoming summer advising deadlines. Council comments to be solicited by email; Council Chair to work with CHC staff to finalize.
  
  • Thank you to committee members.

Academic Standards *(Cory Pols)*

• (Handout) – Exemplary Samples submission form. Draft distributed.
  
  • Thank you to committee members for raising academic standards awareness through review of over 900 contract courses in AY2013-14.
Reports from CHC Council Representatives on other Councils

- Research Council (*Julian Tyson*) – CHC Council representative needed to serve on Research Council.
- Undergraduate Education Council (*Cory Pols*) – Internationalization concepts from JTFSO that may be of interest to CHC Council.

Next Meeting:

Friday 9/12/2014, 12:20pm – Location TBA