

Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2017

Present: Darby Orcutt, Greg Young, Sarah Ash, Beth Hawkins, Robert Hayes, Neal Parker, Angela Smith

Absent: Sid Thakur, Helmut Hergeth, Sophia Katharioiu, David Auerbach, PK Lim,

Guest: Sean Cassidy, Interim Director, University Honors Program (UHP), University Scholars Program (USP)

Topic: Merger of UHP and USP

Background:

These programs are for “high-flying” entering students; have been used successfully as recruiting tools.

UHP: 180-190 /year

Primarily an academic program with enrichment component. Students must take 12 hours of HON seminars plus complete a 6-hour, 2 semester, capstone project; and must maintain a 3.25 GPA. Came out of DUAP. Students currently live in the Honors Village on East Campus.

USP: 450 /year

Primarily an enrichment (co-curricular) program with an academic component. Students participate in 3 semesters of Scholars Forums; 12 hours of honors sections/contracts ; 3 high-impact experience with reflection; and must maintain a GPA of 3.25. Came out of Student Affairs. Students currently live in Sullivan Hall.

Have had a single admissions process since 2012; if a student is accepted to both, have to pick one.

Now that Academic and Student Affairs are together in University College, Dean Mullen and Sue Carson asked the programs to consider merging, in part to have a single administrative structure to improve efficiency. They also liked the idea of having a common academic experience within the scholars program, similar to that of the Honors program, and for the Honors students to have more co-curricular experiences, similar to the Scholars program. Many different possibilities were considered, including:

- Single administrative structure, though work in different places;
- Same as above but staff is located in one place. Students co-located on East Campus;
- Same as above but have one common, on-boarding welcoming experience for one semester. Students would then select and “Honors” track or a “Scholars” track;
- Same as above but one year of a merged program;
- Merge programs into one.

The common semester and common year possibilities would allow students to apply to something that might be called Honors NC State. Students would come into one program and then decide whether to complete an "Honors" track or a "Scholars" track. Current students were not happy about that. Would be stressful if they would have to apply once they got here--might not get the track that they wanted. Was also going to be problematic administratively b/c would not know ahead of time how many to plan for in each program. Few students are actually not happy with the program that they chose as entering freshmen, therefore the purpose is questionable.

Feedback re proposals was mixed. Honors students were especially vocal in their opposition to merging the programs. It is a smaller program of students who have lived and taken courses together.

Currently there is no plan to merge the two programs.

Recommendation from the current program staff -- what they would say to the Advisory Board and Dean Mullen:

- Co-locate two programs in Clark Hall and students on East Campus.
 - Increase efficiency in budget and admissions; may increase more opportunities to engage in outreach.
- Require co-curricular experience for Honors students.
 - E.g., on-campus events (speakers, films, book club, library events, museum tours). Promote connection to campus, and moments of discovery re what they might like/find interesting.
- Require common academic experience for Scholars students.
 - E.g., HON seminars (though will be hard to scale-up); other classes (e.g., Intro to Government).

Who will make the decision? Dean Mullen and likely Senior Associate Dean Bret Smith.

Question: Who can be in the program?

Admittance based on GPA, SAT/ACT, class rank. Students can self-nominate. Is actually a large percentage (~50%) of the students who are admitted. Want to increase outreach to get a broader array of students.

Once here, students can apply at the end of their first semester, students can apply if they have a GPA of 3.75 or higher.

Serve ~12% of the incoming student population.

Question: Why limit by GPA? Does that limit the opportunities for students from disadvantaged areas.

Has been that way for a long time – the way most programs are done. 3.25 is consistent with the Latin Honors. Honors is used as a recruiting tool. Are also a lot of other ways for students to get engaged/involved such as the villages, CSLEPS.

Co-mingling and co-locating administration will be happening in Fall 2018. UHP students will be required to participate in co-curricular activities and we hope to provide a common academic experience for students in the USP.