



*Douglass Seaton, Ph.D.*  
*Warren D. Allen Professor of Music*

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** 3 May 2019  
**TO:** Faculty Senate  
**SUBJECT:** Honors Program Policy Committee report for 2018–2019

It is a pleasure to report that the Honors Program has made major steps forward this year. The first year of the new Honors Experience Program (HEP) has developed along the lines that we laid out in our proposal in 2016-2017 and organized in 2017-2018. From all that we can see, this HEP curriculum has succeeded extremely well

To launch the HEP the University invested in hiring three new faculty members at the rank of Teaching Faculty I, whose specific assignment was to create the common theme and then design and teach the courses for the first iteration of the HEP core curriculum, as well as to mentor HEP students individually. The theme they chose was Freedom and (In)Equality. The faculty and courses were

Azat Gundogan (Sociology)

- Social (In)Equalities (fulfills E-Series, Social Sciences, and Cross-Cultural Studies [X] requirements)
- Utopias/Dystopias: An Homage to “Social Dreaming” (fulfills E-Series, Humanities and Cultural Practice, and Scholarship in Practice requirements)

Ross Moret (Religion)

- Freedom and Religion: Liberal, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives (fulfills E-Series, Ethics and Social Responsibility, and Cross-Cultural Studies [X] requirements)
- Truth, Justice, and the American Way? Ethics, Religion, and Superheroes (fulfills Ethics and Social Responsibility, Diversity in Western Experience [Y], and Scholarship in Practice requirements)

Christina Owens (Interdisciplinary Humanities)

- Radical Visions of Freedom: Imagining Queer and Black Liberation (fulfills E-Series, Humanities and Cultural Practice, Diversity in Western Experience [Y], and Scholarship in Practice requirements)

- Domestic, Factory, and Sex Work: Feminist Perspectives on Globalization (fulfills E-Series, Social Science, Ethics and Social Responsibility, and Cross-Cultural Studies [X] requirements)

In addition to these course offerings the Program arranged several different kinds of related opportunities:

- Speaker Series – five guest lectures
- Equali-Teas – chances to engage issues of equality and cultural diversity in discussion-based and participatory settings (with refreshments)
- Freedom Ride Field Trip to Montgomery and Selma
- Tallahassee Field Trip to the John G. Riley Museum, Heritage Walk, and Meek-Eaton Black Archives
- Movie Nights – with discussion
- Leon Tutoring – a community service initiative organized by Robert Cotter, student member of the HPPC
- Honors Colloquium Leaders and mentorship training course for Honors students

The HEP cohort has four student committees for extra- and co-curricular activities:

- 3-D: Discuss, Debate, and Deliberate (for Speaker Series and Equali-Teas)
- Excursions
- Community Engagement
- Social

Currently 36 students serve in leadership roles and about another 15 are trained for the tutoring program.

An extraordinary success was the recognition of HEP students with two of the three awards in the writing competition of the Florida Collegiate Honors Council.

At the same time, the University Honors Program and Honors in the Major have continued. As of Spring 2019 there were 2523 student altogether enrolled in Honors. This year we had a bumper crop of Honors finishers. At the Spring Honors Medallion Ceremony we recognized

- 226 students who completed the University Honors Program
- 89 students who completed Honors in the Major
- 71 students who completed both University Honors and Honors in the Major
- 26 Outstanding Senior Scholars, completing both University Honors and Honors in the Major, as well as graduating *summa cum laude*

Another pleasant success was in the University's Great Give campaign. The goal for HEP was set at \$1500, and the gifts received totaled \$4023 (268% of the goal).

Now we need to look ahead to the 2019-2020 academic year and beyond. The first concern must be the scaling up of HEP to introduce a second cohort of students while the first completes the core curriculum courses next year. In terms of staffing this means adding new faculty to teach more students. As we pointed out in last year's report, "It is important to stress that *Honors will not be fully staffed by our*

*three new Honors faculty colleagues.* We will still need faculty to teach Honors courses beyond the EQ [i.e., HEP] core, as well as to mentor Honors in the Major theses. We hope that deans, chairs, and the Faculty Senate will assist us to find new, creative ways to facilitate and encourage more of the existing faculty—especially those in tenure-track, research faculty positions—to offer Honors courses.” To move in that direction:

- We have hired a new Teaching Faculty I colleague for the HEP program, Dr. Arianne Johnson Quinn (departmental affiliation in Musicology). This will bring the total number of seats in courses taught by Honors faculty to 516 for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Two more faculty members from departments will join the HEP faculty next year, each teaching one course with a capacity of 19 students per section.
- With a substantial commitment from Dean Karen Laughlin, Undergraduate Studies will provide funding to support staffing of Honors courses by members of the regular faculty, which has always been an ongoing need. Director of Honors Annette Schwabe has been identifying and negotiating for those colleagues, but *this is perennially a difficult challenge and can always use more support from the Faculty Senate and the University Administration, including the Deans and Chairs.*

For Summer 2020 Annette Schwabe and Christina Owens have planned Honors courses to be offered in London. This will allow students to take advantage of FSU International Programs while continuing to make progress in their Honors work.

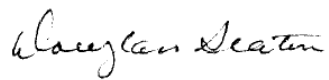
In conjunction with the new HEP pilot and with the expert guidance of Annette Schwabe and Honors Associate Director Jeff Badger, the HPPC has spent considerable time and effort considering evaluation benchmarks and planning to gather data on the success of the HEP curriculum and the students in that program. Since we have only this year’s information and no students yet completing the HEP, what information we will compile at the end of this year can probably serve only to establish a base line. Nevertheless, we did discover after the first semester, for example, that students participating in the continuing University Honors program had completed on average 6 credits toward Honors, while those in the enhanced HEP averaged 8 credit hours, which we take as an indicator that the HEP has at least initially encouraged a higher level of student achievement. In addition to data that can be gathered from University research, there will be a first iteration this year of a student questionnaire to collect information in the following categories:

- Student background
- Academic and intellectual skills and dispositions
- Health
- Current satisfaction
- Social integration and belonging
- Social support
- Expectations and goals

HPPC members also have other responsibilities for the Honors Program. One of the most rewarding and encouraging of these is reviewing proposals for funding for students’ Honors in the Major thesis research. This constantly reminds us of our students’ high level of aspiration and achievement.

Finally, and importantly, I know that the Senate will join me in thanking this year's members of the Honors Program Policy Committee—Bridgett Birmingham, Tarez Graban, Lynn Jones, Ed Hilinski, Jane Lo, Daniel Maier-Katkin, Paul Marty, Chad Marzen, and student members Robert Cotter and Madison Scarcella. We also appreciate the leadership and service of Honors Program Director Annette Schwabe and all the Honors staff.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglass Seaton, Chair  
Honors Program Policy Committee

#### **APPENDIX—HONORS COURSE SECTIONS OFFERED IN 2018-2019**

##### Fall 2018

- 84 courses
- 1469 seats available
- 1349 enrolled

##### Spring 2019

- 68 courses
- 1273 seats available
- 1069 enrolled

##### Total AY 2018-2019

- 152 Honors courses
- 2742 seats available
- 2418 enrolled