



May 3, 2022

Honors Program Policy Committee Report for Academic Year 2021-2022

Dear Faculty Senate Members and Faculty Senate Steering Committee,

The Honors Program Policy Committee (HPPC) met six times during this academic year, three times in Fall 2021, and three times in Spring 2022; all meetings were conducted via Zoom.

The HPPC dealt with a wide range of curricular and policy issues in these meetings, including:

- the strategic growth of the Honors program in terms of students, funding, and resources;
- efforts to improve communication with potential Honors students throughout the admissions process with a focus on increasing the number of qualified students admitted to the Honors program;
- continuing efforts to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in Honors;
- recruiting additional faculty to teach Honors Signature Courses, including full-time specialized faculty as well as departmental faculty serving as Honors Teaching Scholars;
- plans to expand the Honors program requirements in order to offer new curricular and co-curricular opportunities for Honors students, including additional formative experiences;
- securing additional funding for Honors awards for both students and faculty mentors; and
- reviewing scholarship and award applications such as the Honors Thesis Awards and the Honors Thesis Mentor Award (which was awarded this year to Dr. Debi Fadool in the Department of Biological Sciences).

The HPPC focused extensively on plans for managing the strategic growth of the Honors program. Thanks to new investments from the Office of the Provost and the Division of Undergraduate Studies, the Honors program was able to target a new admissions goal of 650 Honors students for Fall 2022. Current admissions numbers indicate that Honors will have



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successfully met or surpassed that goal, and the extensive resources that Provost McRorie and Dean O'Shea provided for expanding staff and faculty in Honors will allow the quality of the program to remain high while expanding the number of Honors students admitted to FSU.

In order to meet the needs of these students, the HPPC discussed ideas for building community among faculty teaching Honors courses, plans for recruiting more faculty to teach Honors Signature Courses, and strategies for encouraging more faculty to get involved as Honors in the Major thesis mentors. Honors hired one additional core faculty member, Michael Furman, to begin teaching in Fall 2022, and additional searches will take place starting late Summer 2022. The Honors program has also developed an "Honors Teaching Scholar Application Portal" that will encourage more departmental faculty to offer Honors Signature Courses, and assist the Honors program with faculty recruitment efforts.

During the Spring 2022 semester, the HPPC was fortunate to enjoy two data-driven discussions about the success of the University Honors Program and the Honors in the Major Program. Thanks to the Office of Institutional Research, the HPPC now has access to dashboards tracking extensive data about undergraduate students in both programs. These data dashboards clearly demonstrate the value of Honors at Florida State University in terms of retention rates, completion rates, graduation rates, and more. In particular, these dashboards will help staff members in the Honors program reach students with the necessary information at the best possible time to encourage students to actively consider programs like Honors in the Major, and to understand why these programs are so valuable to them in their academic careers.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the committee members, Tarez Graban, Shengli Dong, Judy Rushin-Knopf, Bridgett Birmingham, Rochelle Marrinan, Ed Hilinski, Lynn Jones, and Lisa Lyons, along with all of the *ex officio* committee members, including Director Annette Schwabe, Associate Director Jeff Badger, Dean Joe O'Shea, Provost Sally McRorie, Provost Jim Clark, as well as our Honors Student Representative, Faith Jankowski, for all their hard work on the Honors Program Policy Committee this year.



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And finally, the entire committee wishes to offer its sincere thanks and deepest appreciation to Annette Schwabe for her many years of service to the Honors program. While we are sad to see her stepping down as Director of Honors, the HPPC is confident that the Honors program is well positioned for continued success moving forward, and remains excited by and enthusiastic for the future of Honors at Florida State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Marty".

Paul F. Marty, Ph.D.

Professor, School of Information, College of Communication and Information