



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

May 1, 2023

Honors Program Policy Committee Report for Academic Year 2022-2023

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 2022, and three times in Spring 2023; all meetings were conducted via Zoom.

This was an exciting year for the HPPC, as we were delighted to welcome our new Director of Honors, Dr. Paulette Curtis, to the campus community. We arranged the topics of our meetings this year around focused discussions centered on several key topics important to Honors. This gave us an opportunity to invite key members of the Honors Program's leadership team to our committee meetings each month to explore the following topics:

- In October 2022, we welcomed Brian Wilcoxon, Assistant Director in Honors, to the HPPC, who led the committee in a discussion about opportunities regarding co-curricular engagement, colloquium, and capstone projects, which helped stimulate ideas for how to keep Honors students engaged in the program while they are upper division students.
- In November 2022, we welcomed Michael Furman, Assistant Director in Honors, to the HPPC, who led the committee in a discussion about the challenges and opportunities we face with the lower division curriculum in Honors, including the current state of the Honors Signature Courses and the program's current curricular requirements.
- In December 2022, we welcomed Michael Franklin, Assistant Director in Honors, to the HPPC, who led the committee in a discussion about the current state of the Honors in the Major program, including a lively conversation about how we can overcome barriers and encourage more students and more faculty to get involved with this program.
- In February 2023, we focused on the current state of the Honors student applications and the applications process for both new and current students, including a discussion about



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

the opportunities and challenges for growth in the Honors program as we increase both the number of students and the number of faculty teaching in the program.

- In March 2023, we welcomed Michael Franklin back to the committee to continue our conversation from the previous semester, focusing on strategies for encouraging more faculty and more departments to engage with Honors in the Major.
- In April 2023, we welcomed Michael Furman back to the committee to continue our conversation from the previous semester, focusing on ideas for increasing the number of Honors Signature Courses, and streamlining the Honors curriculum requirements.

The committee is very grateful to the Honors leadership team for their assistance; these focused discussions greatly helped the committee understand the current state of the program. The Honors faculty and staff are doing an amazing job working with our students!

The University can be very proud of how the Honors program has grown over the past few years; the program is becoming stronger every year, with a committed group of faculty, staff, and students who are extremely enthusiastic about the Honors core curriculum! The HPPC extends its sincere thanks to the University leaders who provided the resources to build the program to its current level, including Provosts Sally McRorie and Jim Clark, Deans Karen Laughlin and Joe O'Shea, and Director Annette Schwabe — we have truly made great strides forward!

We now have new Honors Director, Dr. Paulette Curtis, leading the way with our new and improved Honors program. We have a strong group of core Honors faculty, including both specialized teaching faculty and departmental faculty, teaching the extremely popular Honors Signature courses to our students. We have a fantastic group of Honors staff and advisors that are working closely with our students. And we have an amazing group of Honors students that are involved and engaged with all aspects of campus life, in and out of the Honors Program.

When we look back over the tremendous growth and development of this program, and its increasing numbers of students, faculty, and staff, we believe it is clear that this growth can be attributed to the development of the core curriculum of Honors Signature Courses, taught by a



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION
School of Information

combination of specialized teaching faculty in Honors, and departmental faculty from units across campus. This is not something that Honors had before, and these courses, which are extremely popular among the Honors students, and have greatly helped to build community among the students enrolled in our Honors Program.

We now have more students applying to Honors than ever, more students accepting the invitation to join Honors than ever, and more students graduating with Honors than ever. Therefore, the HPPC believes it is imperative that we keep the Honors core curriculum as strong as possible, which means encouraging the University to provide even more resources for Honors faculty and staff so that they can offer even more Honors Signature Courses, strengthen the core curriculum, and to continue to build the program.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the committee members, Tarez Graban, Shengli Dong, Judy Rushin-Knopf, Aaron Thomas, Rochelle Marrinan, Ed Hilinski, Lynn Jones, and Lisa Lyons, along with all of the *ex officio* committee members, including Director Paulette Curtis, Dean Joe O'Shea, and Provost Jim Clark, as well as our Honors Student Representatives, Kate Shannon, Maggie Zendeirouh, and Kamryn Reynolds, for all their hard work on the Honors Program Policy Committee this year.

The HPPC is confident that the Honors program is well positioned for continued success, 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