

# **Program Review Committee Report University Honors Program Spring 2009**

## **Mission**

The mission of the Honors Program is consistent with the university mission, yet is broadly stated and does not distinguish this program from others across campus.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

Four overarching goals with related objectives are listed. They include enhancing scholarship, enhancing qualified student participation in honors, increasing participation in co-curricular activities and addressing space issues.

## **Statistical Information**

Student credit hours (SCH) have decreased from a high of 546 in AY 04-05 to a low of 372 in AY 07-08, representing an overall 32% decrease. The most precipitous drop occurred between AY 04-05 to AY 05-06, with a drop in SCH of 28% in that year alone. There are significantly more lower division credit hours generated in the honors program as compared to upper division credit hours, with a ratio of roughly 9:1. The number of SCH in upper division credit hours decreased by 47% in the five-year period of the report.

The number of students participating in the honors program or graduating with honors is not provided, there is no information on the number of full-time and no indication regarding adjunct faculty teaching in the program.

Department expenditures are negligible as a percent of Washburn instructional expenditures. Total expenditures are approximately half the budgeted amount in 2003-2004.

## **Outcome Measures**

The report indicated plans to begin an exit survey of graduating seniors in spring 2009. Outcome measures are globally stated but no specific data are provided. Seventeen criteria established by the National Collegiate Honors Council are stated, and the director's evaluation of whether each criterion was met is provided.

## **Department Strengths**

The program lists its strengths as the ability to thrive without substantial financial resources.

## **Department Weaknesses**

Weaknesses are described as structural and include a lack of dedicated space and lack of a dedicated honors program advisor.

## **Changes in the Future**

It is recommended the Dean of Honors responsibilities be decreased to allow more focused attention to the honors program. Creation of more specific mission, vision, and goals statements is suggested. The Dean is asked to re-evaluate each of the 17 criteria in collaboration with the

VPAA. Attention should then be given to those criteria not met and specific plans for meeting the goals established.

Data related to the program should be tracked on an annual basis and should include the number of courses (upper and lower division), titles of courses, faculty teaching those courses, the number of students participating each year by class (freshman, sophomore, etc.) and the number of students graduating with honors each year.

**Rating**

Significant problems.

**Recommendation**

Singled out for further development. A progress report should be provided in two years indicating the progress made related to changes recommended above.