

To: Faculty Senate

From: Wade Znosko, Chair, Senior Honors Research Committee

Cc: Sean Barry, Xun Bian, Alix Fink, Patricia Hastings, Lacy Klinger, Tom Wears, Andrew Yeagley

Subject: Annual report of the Committee

Date: May 3, 2018

I am happy to report that four students have successfully completed all requirements for Senior Honors Research this year:

- With Honors in Exercise Science, Chase McPherson  
*The Effect of the Annual Training Cycle on Aerobic Capacity in Division I Female Soccer Players*  
Dr. Troy Purdom, Director
- With Honors in Exercise Science, Lindsey Brown  
*Periodization and the Annual Training Cycle: Effects on Anaerobic Power and Capacity in Division I Female Soccer Athletes*  
Dr. Kyle Levers, Director
- With Honors in Chemistry, Kaelyn Jefferson  
*Investigating the Synergy between Paraben Derivatives and Ampicillin and Erythromycin*  
Dr. Andrew Yeagley, Director
- With Honors in Finance, Chad Kozoyed  
*Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001: A Test of Market Efficiency in the Insurance and Airline Industries*  
Dr. Frank Bacon, Director

We did have one student that began Senior Honors Research and successfully completed the first semester of the program, but failed to complete the second semester of the program and as such, did not obtain research honors.

The proposal deadline for Senior Honors Research for next semester was Tuesday, April 15. We received five new proposals. We recently read these new proposals and listened to presentations from these candidates. We are happy to report that, barring some revisions, we will invite 5 more students to participate in SHR beginning in the Fall 2018 semester. We also currently have one student conducted SHR on the more non-traditional 'split' of Spring 2018 and Fall 2018. As such, we should have a total of six Senior Honors Research participants in the upcoming year.

Over the past year, the Committee has continued to discuss opportunities to increase participation in Senior Honors Research. Ideas discussed include training for faculty mentors along with some type of compensation. Senior Honors Research is the most intensive official research experience that a student can participate while at Longwood, including a formal written proposal, two consecutive semesters of intensive research with a faculty mentor, the generation of a final thesis, and the defense of that final thesis. We have discussed and will continue to generate ideas on how to increase participation in this program while maintaining the rigor and prestige associated with Senior Honors Research (i.e. maintain the two-semester timeline and not reduce this to one semester). We are not only focusing on the student-side of participation, but also the faculty-side. Oftentimes, the same faculty member will participate in Senior Honors Research multiple times. Our goal is to increase both faculty and student participation across the disciplines. A second focus has actually been to change the name of the committee/program. With the name 'Senior Honors Research' both students and faculty frequently confuse this with a Cormier Honors College program that is exclusively only an option for Honors students. Changing the name, such as 'Senior Research Scholars', may avoid this problem in the future and increase participation.

I would like to thank the Senate for allowing me to continue serving on this committee and acting as the chair.

Sincerely,

Wade Znosko  
Chairman, Senior Honors Research  
Assistant Professor, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences