

Annual Report, 2010-11

Honors Advisory Committee

For: Faculty Senate

The most important initiative in the Honors College over the past year has been a new plan targeting Honors admissions:

- The membership opted to offer two Scholarship Interview days, one in early December and one in late February, rather than one. The addition of the second interview open house resulted in our doubling previous participation, expanding our pool of applicants. The committee was, however, fortunate to find faculty and student volunteer staff for the two events for two full Saturdays during busy times of the year.
- With the support of the Committee, Dr. Orth proposed to Interim VPAA Perkins and President Finnegan that \$80,000 be set aside annually for additional Provost Scholarships for the incoming Honors class. Dr. Perkins and the President acted quickly on the proposal, and approved this ongoing E&G expenditure. By early April, the number of students accepting scholarship offers was at an all-time high, with the additional Provost Scholarship money making up much of the difference.

For the first time in the last decade, lack of space availability at area 4-H sites led to a full three-day, on-campus Honors Freshman Orientation in August. Several members of the Advisory Committee were actively involved with the planning and delivery of key parts of the retreat. With travel costs reduced to a few short van trips, the program was not only less expensive, but met all of our programmatic goals. An on-campus orientation retreat will again be held in August of 2011.

With Dr. Orth's retirement scheduled for June, committee members have worked hard to develop an advisory members' handbook, a guide to Honors scholarships, and essential policy and scheduling documents to leave the incoming Honors College dean with a formal record of Honors policies and procedures.

For the Committee,

Geoffrey Orth
Director