

To: Faculty Senate

From: Wade Znosko, Chair, Senior Honors Research Committee

Cc: Xun Bian, Rhonda Brock-Servais, Alix Fink, Renee Gutierrez, Ruth Meese, Sarah Porter, Nancy Riddell

Subject: Annual report of the Committee

Date: April 15, 2016

I am happy to report that four students are on track to complete all requirements for Senior Honors Research this year:

- **Jonathan Buckley**, Physics, faculty director Dr. Ken Pestka
- **William (Davis) Gammon**, History, faculty director Dr. Larissa Ferguson
- **Catherine Kinsley**, Anthropology, faculty director Dr. Jim Jordan
- **Alana Marie**, Finance, faculty direction Dr. Frank Bacon

The proposal deadline for Senior Honors Research for next semester is Monday, April 18. As of now, we have received five proposals from a variety of disciplines and colleges. The Committee will meet during exam week to hear students present their proposals and to officially confer Senior Honors on those students above who successfully defend their theses.

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.