

To: Faculty Senate

From: Wade Znosko, Chair, Senior Honors Research Committee

Cc: Xun Bian, Alix Fink, Renee Gutierrez, Patricia Horne-Hastings, Lacy Klinger, Lindsey Stokes, Andrew Yeagley

Subject: Annual report of the Committee

Date: April 17, 2017

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

- With Honors in Biology, Keaton Unroe  
*The Neurological Underpinnings of "Good" and "Bad" Mother Rats*  
Dr. Adam Franssen, Director
- With Honors in Mathematics, Sabrina Walker  
*Geometric Structures o Lie Algebras*  
Dr. Tom Wears, Director
- With Honors in Kinesiology, Andrew Law  
*Cardiac Autonomic Control After Continuous Versus Interval Training in Cyclists*  
Dr. Jo Morrison, Director
- With Honors in Chemistry, Michael Keith Crisp  
*The Use of Pseudoephedrine-containing Medicine Profiles in Determining the Profiles and Synthetic Routes of Methamphetamine*  
Dr. Sarah Porter, Director
- With Honors in Finance, Patrick Gobran  
*Presidential Elections and Industry Stock Returns: A Test of Market Efficiency*  
Dr. Frank Bacon, Director

The proposal deadline for Senior Honors Research for next semester is Tuesday, April 18. We are looking forward to reading these new proposals and having a new group of Senior Honors Research participants. 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.

Sincerely,

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