

HONORS COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE – OCTOBER 4, 2019

Tim Ruhnke – Chair and Honors Program Director

HONORS

Senate report: September

3-year term

Program Director, 1 rep from each college, 4 AL. *Ex officio*: Director of Admissions, Registrar.

Names	Term	Represents	Address	Phone	E-mail
Ruhnke, Tim (<i>Director</i>)	appointed	Director	135 Hamblin	3210	ruhnetr
Ladner, Barbara	2 of 3	AL	230 Hill	4113	ladnerbe
Liedl, Barbara	2 of 3	AL	100 Toney House	0843	liedlbe
Gilliland, Steve	1 of 3*	AL	221 Cole	3197	sgilliland
McConnell, Anne	3 of 3*	AL	205 Hill	3073	amcconnell
Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski	3 of 3*	AH	234 Hill	3077	jbarnesp
Settle, Aaron	3 of 3*	PS	122 Fleming	3367	asettle1
Krasnansky, Marek	1 of 3*	NSM	319 Hamblin	3257	mkrasnansky
Peyton, Billy Joe	3 of 3*	BSS	114 Hill	3235	peytonbj
West-McCombs	<i>ex officio</i>	Registrar	127 Ferrell	3015	mccombs
Means, Jameelah	<i>ex officio</i>	Admissions	121 Ferrell	4341	Jmeans9
Smith, Danford	1 of 1	student			dsmith83

Honors Students - AY 2018-19

Last	First	Major
Cook	Sarai	Biology
Gharib	Oddai	Biology
Hudson	Hannah	Biology
Irfan	Fatima	Biology
Kennedy	Sara	International Studies
Martin	Zedan	Biology
Moles	Ciera	Chemistry
Ricket	Joshua	Chemistry
Ricket (Bates)	Sydney	Psychology
Smith	Danford	Computer Science

bold = new admits for AY 2018-19

Program Activity – AY2018-19

Luncheon Seminar – November 1, 2018

Oddai Gharib and Ciera Moles presented “A Seminar on Lead” as part of their HON 101 seminar. The luncheon invitation was forwarded to WVSU students who qualified for admission to the program, but no recruits were in attendance.

Honors Committee Meeting – November 2, 2018, 2018

Present: Anne McConnell, Tim Ruhnke, Barbara Ladner, Steve Gilliland, Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski, Jameelah Means and Derrien Williams.

Items discussed were Honors room space in the residence halls and recruiting for the program. An open house for the Honors Program was announced, date to be determined.

Honors Open House – March 7, 2019

The following was a recap of the luncheon that was sent to committee members:

The Honors luncheon was well attended, but not by potential incoming Honors students. This was disappointing, and if we wish to recruit qualified students from the present student body, other methods will need to be employed. From what I can understand, students receive an avalanche of emails from various WVSU sources on a daily basis. We also sent out a text notification to students who had listed number in the database.

One qualified who could not attend has applied. I talked to Jessica and Jeff about some potential students from A&H. They agreed to reach out to those students. Another student, Riley Reesman, is interested but does not qualify per GPA (3.5). His overall GPA is 3.37, which is above the GPA needed to remain in the program. Given that Riley has shown interest and attended the luncheon, I would like to give him consideration to join on a probationary basis as long as his GPA remains above 3.3. Please respond as to your thought on this matter.

Mid-East Honors Association (MEHA) attendance – April 5-7, 2019

The MEHA conference was held at Ball State in Muncie, IN. Fatima Ifran, Hannah Hudson, Zedan Martin, Josh Ricket and Sydney Ricket. Zedan Martin presented a poster on his research with Gerald Hankins. Josh and Sydney Rick presented a poster on research they conducted a part of their Honors Environmental Biology course. Danford Smith was a co-author.

Spring, 2019 – Recruitment

The brochure for the Honors Program was modified and updated. Two hundred brochures were printed. Electronic letters were emailed to current qualified WVSU students, in addition students who had applied for admission in AY 2019-2020.

Mary Edwards (Psychology major) was admitted to the program.

Presentations by Honors Students at National Meetings

Josh Ricket – 2 presentations at the meetings of the American Chemical Society.

Zedan Martin – presentation at LSAMP.

Hannah Hudson and Fatima Irfan – presentations the meetings of the American Society of Parasitology.

Honors Committee Meeting – Sept. 19, 2019

Attendance: Ruhnke, Liedl, Ladner, Erlandson, Sizemore, Krasnansky

Recruitment for the program was discussed. Ideas included program post-card mailing, posting Honors Program flyers around campus, having a recruitment table at the Brimhall Science Quiz Bowl and soliciting support from the WVSU Foundation. Honors students are in the process of visiting sections of FYE in order to introduce the Honors Program. Liedl moved to establish an Honors Faculty designation for inclusion in the WVSU Catalog. Ladner seconded. Motion passed with no dissents.

Recommendations and Concerns

- *Recruiting for the program continues to be problematic. Honors only sections of courses will be difficult unless more students are actively involved.*
- *Recruiting faculty also needs to be a focus. The center of the student experience will be the Honors project or thesis. Faculty advisers/mentors will be needed to guide these students.*