

COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

DECEMBER 9, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the College Assembly was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on December 9, 2004 in Room 332 of Bobet Hall. Dean Frank Scully chaired the assembly and Ms Andrell Gautier, secretary, was present. Rev. Leo Nicoll, S.J led the invocation.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2004 was approved with no changes.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Honor's Program Restructuring Continuance of Last Meeting

Dr. Scully called the meeting to continue dialogue and address any issues regarding the University Honors Program. The Dean said that any changes need to be addressed now in order to include the revision in the new bulletin. Honors Program changes were addressed in a one page document distributed to the College Assembly. The *Proposal to Restructure the University Honors Program* along with a document on the *Honors Program Requirements at A&CJ Colleges and Universities* was also distributed to the College. Dr. Lynn Koplitz reiterated that the motion to restructure to Honors Program was put forward by the University Honors Board. In all, the proposal would reduce the total required credit hours of the University Honors Program to 27 hours—the program is currently at 48 hours. Dr. Koplitz stressed that this is a minimum requirement and the student can elect to take more honors courses to fulfill the rest of their common curriculum requirements. The main reason of this proposal is to allow music majors, science majors and transfer students to complete the University Honors Program. Based on a survey of current Honors students (n= 63), 81% responded that the current University Honors Program (probably/definitely) does not serve students in all majors equally well. The Dean opened the floor to discussion. Those faculty who are against the proposal consider this essentially a scheduling problem, and oppose making program changes to solve such a problem. Other faculty voiced concerns that the best minds were not put together to restructure the program and that decisions were made under the pressure of artificial deadlines. Another concern was the reduction of hours. Dr. Koplitz responded that the discussion on this has been ongoing and that we need to make it distinct from the common curriculum requirement, so that we can begin to have the time resources to have it evolved into something different. The most immediate need is to serve the students already in the program and make the program work for them. After further discussion, the question was moved, seconded, and the assembly voted to end debate.

At the request of the faculty, a secret ballot was called; only full-time faculty and DSAC students were allowed to vote. The motion passed with a count of **63 FOR** and **39 AGAINST** and **1 ABSTENTION**.

The University Honors Program should be restructured to include one Honors course in each of the following eight areas: Behavioral/Social Sciences, English, Fine Arts, History, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Philosophy, and Religious Studies.

In addition, the full Honors Program will include a requirement for an original, independent senior project. An orientation course to assist students as they prepare to undertake this project will be required for one credit P/F in the semester preceding the actual execution of the senior project. The project itself will count for two credit hours with a letter grade. Each student would declare her or his intention to pursue a senior project at the end of the sophomore year.

Therefore, this proposal would reduce the total required credit hours for the University Honors Program to 27.

Since the previous motion (old business) was approved, the proposed resolution introduced by Dr. Patrick Bourgeois (identified as a new business item) was moot and therefore withdrawn from consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.