**HBC:** Submitted April 14, 2016

**Committee: Honors Board**

**Chair: Carl Wozniak**

**Subject: Annual Report to the Academic Senate for 2015-16**

**General Information:**

The Honors Board is responsible for the approval, oversight and evaluation of the Honors Program. HBC held its first organizational meeting on September 4, 2015 and met seven times during the academic year. This report lists the activities of HBC from September 2015 through April 2016.

**Enrollment:**

In 2015-16 the Honors Program included 206 student participants. Seventy-one new Honors students were added in 2015.

**Membership:**

***Faculty*** Trent Batchelor (Business)

Alan Beauchamp (Psychology)

Zac Cogley (Philosophy)

Norma Froelich (Earth, Environ., & Geog.), Vice Chair

James McCommons (English)

Amy Orf, (Modern Languages)

Marcus Robyns (Academic Information)

Alan Willis (History), Secretary

Carl Wozniak (Education), Chair

***Students*** Sarah Ponzer

Georgia Harrison

***Administrators***  Michael Broadway (Dean, Arts and Sciences)

Michael Harrington (Department Head, Criminal Justice)

***Honors Administration*** David Wood (Honors Director, English)

**(*ex officio)*** Michael Joy (Honors Asst. Director, Modern Languages)

**Selection of Officers for 2016-17:**

Elections of officers took place on April 17, 2016. Elected officers for 2016-17 include:

* Chair: Amy Orf (Modern Languages)
* Vice Chair: James McCommons (English)
* Secretary: Norma Forelich (Earth, Environmental, and Geographical Sciences)

**Reports Submitted to the Academic Senate:**

***Request for Operating Procedure Change***

***Submitted:*** March 12, 2015 ***Status:*** Approved by Senate

The HB amended Bylaw 4.6 of the Operating Procedures to add the officer role of Vice Chair and redefine officer roles of Vice Chair and Secretary.

**AAUP Master Agreement Revision to Honors Language:**

***Submitted:*** March 31, 2015

***Status:*** Changes incorporated in AAUP Master Agreement 2015-220.

Rationale for changes:

* Identify the evaluation as annual, which was ambiguous in the prior contract
* Allow for joint or separate evaluations in concert with the Honors administration
* Clarify text related to faculty rebuttal of the evaluation

Finalized wording

3.3.1.3.1 For the purpose of maintaining the quality of the honors program, faculty who teach in the honors program will be evaluated similar to faculty who have a joint appointment (5.1.4.1). Honors program faculty members not applying for tenure or promotion will receive an annual teaching evaluation from the honors board and honors program director not later than January 24. For this purpose, course evaluations from students in the honors course taught by the faculty member will be provided to the honors board and the honors program director. The evaluations from the honors board and the honors program director will be given to the home department of the faculty member on or before February 1 for an annual evaluation, or September 15 if applying for tenure or promotion. It is the responsibility of the faculty member applying for promotion or tenure to inform the honors program director of their intentions at the beginning of the fall semester. The home department will use this evaluation when writing part III and IV of the faculty evaluation report. The faculty member teaching in the honors program may write a rebuttal to the evaluation letter within 10 days of receipt if they disagree with the evaluation received; that rebuttal will also be provided to the home department.

**Programmatic Actions:**

* HBC supported removing the pre-Calculus and language requirements for Honors
* HBC supported consolidation of HON 111 and HON 112 under the HON 111 course number. Awaiting CUP action
* The syllabus evaluation procedure was revised and amended
* Honors courses have been aligned with General Education requirements

**Faculty and Staffing Actions:**

**Staffing Honors Program Courses**

Courses and instructors for the year included:

* Fall 2015:
  + HON 001 (Capstone) (David Wood)
  + HON 101 (Keith Kendall, David Wood)
  + HON 111 (David Wood)
  + HON 201 (Michael Joy)
  + HON 211 (Zac Cogley)
  + HON 302 (Jonathan Allen)
  + HON 495 (David Wood)
  + HON 498 (Directed Study) (David Wood)
* Winter 2016:
  + HON 001 (Capstone) (Michael Joy, David Wood)
  + HON 101 (Jon Sherman)
  + HON 111 (David Wood, Lupe Arenillas)
  + HON 201 (Jon Sherman Rebecca Ulland)
  + HON 211 (Alan Willis)
  + HON 498 (Directed Study) (David Wood)

**Honors Faculty Status**

New Honors faculty status was awarded to the following individuals and courses

* Maria Arenillas- HON 111- *Journeys through European Film (1948-present)*
* Jon Sherman- HON 101- *Meeting the Foreign: Monstrosity and Alterity in the Ancient and Medieval World*
* Jaspal Singh- HON 301- *Apartheid and Post-apartheid South African Literature and Culture*
* Scott Demel- HON 201- *Historical Archaeology*

**Evaluation of Honors Program Course Instruction**

In compliance with the AAUP Master Agreement, faculty evaluations by the Honors Board were completed and distributed to seven faculty members in January 2016.

**Financial Support of Honors Students:**

* **Rich and Anna Lundin Summer Research Fellowships**

Fellowships were increase to five $5,000 fellowships in 2015, representing a $25,000 annual contribution. The funds provide support for student summer research. Augmenting these funds, Director Wood garnered financial support from within NMU to fund two additional students in 2015 and one in 2016.

* **John and Shirley Berry Award**

In 2015 two additional students received renewable $5,000 annual awards from John and Shirley Berry, adding to the eight Honors students previously awarded continuing support. The award gives preference to students in the College of Business and STEM.

**Honors Program Student Support and Activities:**

* + Thirty-two students travelled to Minneapolis with Director Wood to see a play and visit the Art Institute
  + Two students attended the National Collegiate Honors Program conference in Chicago
  + Honors faculty Zac Cogley’s students held two public poster events with his students in the Cohodas building.
  + Twelve students attended a Shakespeare film in Houghton
  + Religious historian David Halperin was a guest speaker at NMU sponsored by Honors
  + Astrophysics Professor and NMU Trustee Thomas Zurbuchen was a guest speaker hosted by Honors
  + *Conspectus Borealis*, a new student research journal at NMU was inaugurated. Asst. Director Joy is faculty adviser
  + Honors and other NMU students won regional and local Quiz Bowl competitions headed by Asst. Director Joy
  + Honors organized the annual NMU Outstanding Student Reception
  + The Honors Student Organization held monthly activities for Honors students. Examples of activities organized by the students include new student recruitment, Wildcat Weekend participation, hiking events, and participating in various volunteer events.

**Future Work for HBC:**

* Director Wood is actively pursuing international study abroad connection with Keble College at the University of Oxford and University of Roehampton (London)
* Continue conversation to remove Honors language and pre-Calculus requirements
* Awaiting CUP action on consolidation of HON 111-112 under HON 111
* Continue exploring the possibility of creating an Honors College at NMU.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Honors Board, the Honors Program Director, Dr. David Wood, the Honors Assistant Director, Michael Joy, and Honors student representatives for their dedication and hard work this academic year.

The Honors Board members demonstrated a commitment to their duties, progressive forethought for the future, and shared responsibility for the good of the Honors Program and its students. The effort required from the membership to accomplish these initiatives is commendable.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Wozniak, Chair, Honors Board Committee 2015-16