

**President's Report
March 20, 2009
Dr. Rebecca Wheeler**

1. Handbook Changes

The Provost's Office provided information as requested:

On the position of Lecturer:

"Lecturer. A lecturer normally holds the terminal degree. Duties in addition to instruction are assigned by the Department Chair. These duties may include service and professional development."

Change 12: The Honors Council will be replaced by an advisory group of the Honors Faculty. It will not be elected. Faculty will be recommended by Deans, by the Senate, selected by the Honors Program Director and affirmed by the Provost. A small committee has worked on language to put in the handbook regarding the Honors Faculty.

THE HONORS FACULTY

The Honors Faculty, selected by the Director with the approval of the Provost, assists in overseeing the Honors Program. Academic deans, the Director, and the Faculty Senate may recommend faculty for Honors Faculty status.

The Faculty, or committees thereof, meet regularly to sustain the academic integrity of the program by

- developing and reviewing the goals and expectations of the program
- reviewing and approving proposed Honors seminars
- selecting winners of the annual Honors Program scholarships
- evaluating proposals for Honors Summer Research Stipends
- planning and participating in the extra-curricular activities of the program, such as lectures, presentations of study research, and ceremonies to recognize student achievement
- evaluating portfolios submitted for HONR 484
- contributing evaluative narratives to Honors student portfolios
- implementing the Honors Program assessment plan
- implementing changes resulting from program assessment and/or in accord with the purposes of the institution

The Provost's Office accepted all but two of the Senate decisions:

Change 7: The Director of Sponsored Programs description should be retained as submitted (do not add back in the information about gathering grant source information).

I spoke with Vice Provost Schwarze about this. She explained that the Senate's concerns about information gathering are handled in other ways: through workshops and through new support staff. I asked Vice Provost Schwarze if the faculty could receive further instruction on how to use the grant-finding software to which the University subscribes. She agreed. Valerie Cheeseman will telephone me and describe the paths by which her office provides grant source information.

Change 9: Student Life proposed removing student judicial matters from the University Handbook and placing these in the Student Handbook, but the Faculty Senate would like these policies to remain in the University Handbook. The problem has been that these policies change each year and that the policies appear in both the University Handbook and the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is often updated before the University Handbook so there has been a concern that the handbooks may, at times, on certain issues, not be consistent, which can create problems. Roark talked to the Dean of Students who suggested that we form a small committee, including himself, Julie Kittelson, representatives from the Faculty Senate (I asked Pete Carlson and Nate French), the Provost's office (Assoc. Provost Cartwright, and William Thro), and students to determine which policies should be in which handbook and which policies should be in both.

2. Possible closure of optional Social Work Major under the Bachelor of Arts degree program in Sociology

The Provost announced to the faculty, after considerable discussion with the Dept. of Social Work, that the Provost's Office is considering closing the Sociology Major under the BA program in Sociology. The issues underlying this consideration revolved around the global financial climate entailing "anticipated continued and deepening reductions in University resources and the drain on resources presented by accreditation requirements in this area." (see Provost email to faculty, March 18, 2009).