

5-6-2013

Honors Program Transition to an Honors College: Name Change

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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The College at
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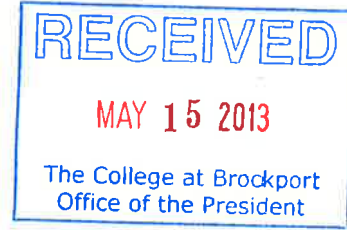
Resolution # 22 2012-2013
College Senate

Supersedes Res #: _____

TO: Dr. John R. Halstead, College President

FROM: The College Senate: **5/07/2013**

RE: → I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)
II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)
III. Other, For Your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)



SUBJ: **Honors College Proposal** (#30_12-13UC)

Signed: Dawn Jones Date: 5/14/13
(Dawn Jones, 2013-2014 College Senate President)

Please fill out the bottom portion and follow the distribution instructions at the end of this page.

TO: Dawn Jones, College Senate President

FROM: John R. Halstead, College President

RE: → I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle choice)

a. Accepted - Implementation Effective Date**: Immediate
****Implementation of resolution requires final approval from SUNY- State Education Department.** YES

b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on ___/___/___

c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI

a. Received and acknowledged ___/___/___

b. Comment: _____

Signed: [Signature] Date: 5/16/13
(Dr. John R. Halstead, President, The College at Brockport)

DISTRIBUTION:

Upon approval, the College President will forward copies of resolutions to his staff who will, in turn, forward copies to their staff. The College Senate Office will post resolutions to the College Senate Web at <http://www.brockport.edu/collegesenate/resolutions>.

**COLLEGE SENATE OFFICE
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 28**

Incomplete proposals will be returned and proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

| | |
|---|--|
| Routing Number <i>Routing # assigned by Senate Office 2012-2013</i> | #30_12-13UC <i>Use routing number and title in all reference to this proposal.</i> |
| This Proposal Replaces Resolution | |

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use committee guidelines available at brockport.edu/collegesenate/proposal.html.
- Prepare ONE complete document in **Word format**: include this proposal cover page, proposal, attachments and support letters from your department chair and dean if applicable.
- **Locate the Resolution # and date this proposal will replace at our "Approved Resolutions" page on our Web site.**
- Email completed proposal to senate@brockport.edu. (General Education Proposals and questions go to dlamphron@brockport.edu in the Vice Provost's Office first.)
- Make revisions on the paperwork emailed to you from the Senate office that shows the assigned routing number on top. Submit updated document to senate@brockport.edu.
- Questions? Call the Senate office at 395-2586 or the appropriate committee chairperson.

1. PROPOSAL TITLE: Please be somewhat descriptive, ie. *Use a course number and/or title, indicate if for GED code, etc.*

Honors Program Transition to an Honors College: Name Change

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

The proposed transition from an Honors Program to an Honors College will take with a name change to the "Honors College" approved in the current 2012-13 AY

3. WILL ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AFFECTING BUDGET BE NEEDED? NO YES **EXPLAIN**

4. DESCRIBE ANY DATA RELATED TO STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT USED AS PART OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE REQUESTED SENATE ACTION.

N/A

5. HOW WILL THIS AFFECT TRANSFER STUDENTS:

N/A

6. ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Immediately upon approval of the Senate and SUNY

7. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES: PLEASE DATE ALL REVISED DOCUMENTS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

| <i>First Submission</i> | <i>Updated on</i> | <i>Updated on</i> | <i>Updated on</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2/15/2013 | 4/8/2013 | | |

8. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Department</i> | <i>Phone</i> | <i>Email</i> |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| <i>Donna Kowal (Director) & Priya Banerjee (Associate Director)</i> | <i>Honors Program</i> | <i>395-5400</i> | <i>dkowal@brockport.edu pbanerje@brockport.edu</i> |

9. COMMITTEES: (Senate office use only)

| Standing Committee | Forwarded To | Dates Forwarded |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Committee | Standing Committee | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Planning & Policies | Executive Committee | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Professional Staff Policies | Senate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Education & Curriculum Policies | Passed GED's go to Vice Provost | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum & Policies | College President | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies | OTHER | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Curriculum & Policies | REJECTED -WITHDRAWN | |

NOTES:

Proposal: Transition from "Honors Program" to "Honors College"

The proposed transition from an Honors Program to an Honors College will take place with a name change to the “Honors College” approved in the current 2012-13 AY.

Context

The Honors Program at The College at Brockport has existed in its current form for over twenty years and has developed into a large, multi-disciplinary community of approximately 400 students. Formally established in 1974 to meet the needs of academically talented students, today it is one of the largest and oldest honors programs among the four-year SUNY comprehensive colleges.

Brockport’s Honors Program has grown in size with help of the Honors Scholarship. In Fall 2012, the Program admitted 81 high-parameter freshmen students and 69 transfer students, and plans to admit another class of 80+ high-performing freshmen in Fall 2013. The official SUNY “Honors Programs Information Summary: 2012” indicates that Brockport’s Honors Program is among the top three in among SUNY university colleges in terms of enrollment and entering class profile (see https://www.suny.edu/student/academic_honors_programs.cfm).

The timing of the proposed transition will coincide with moving to Hartwell Hall in accordance with the Facilities and Master Plan (<http://www.brockport.edu/facilities/FaMP/>).

Benefits

Establishing an Honors College at The College at Brockport will:

- **Support the College’s strategic plan, especially the emphasis on achieving national recognition and research prestige.**
- **Improve the College’s ability to attract and retain high-performing students, including out-of-state and international students.**
- **Enrich the Honors student experience by integrating engaged learning experiences into the existing Honors curriculum.**
- **Increase the profile of undergraduate student achievement, research and leadership at Brockport.**
- **Increase the profile of Brockport as a leader in Honors education among the comprehensive colleges of SUNY.**
- **Enhance the sense of identity and community among Honors students and alumni from across the disciplines.**

Institutional support has been affirmed by Provost Anne Huot and Associate Provost, P. Michael Fox.

Rationale

The College at Brockport’s Honors Program has long been an active institutional member of the National Collegiate Honors Council, which has identified a set of “best practices” for Honors Programs and Honors Colleges. NCHCs “best practices” informs the current structure and content of Brockport’s Honors Program and is used as a guide for periodic program reviews. Brockport’s Honors Program currently meets the “characteristics of a fully developed Honors Program” and already utilizes many of the best practices of Honors Colleges (see <http://nchchonors.org/faculty-directors/basic-characteristics-of-a-fully-developed-honors-college/>).

A summary of the “characteristics of a fully developed Honors College” follows. It is important to note that these “characteristics” are offered by NCHC as “best practices that are common to successful and fully developed honors colleges.” They are not mandates, but rather guidelines to be applied and adapted to individual institutions. An Honors accreditation organization does not exist.

1. *“An honors college incorporates the relevant characteristics of a fully developed honors program.”*
 - The Honors Program currently meets these characteristics (see <http://nchchonors.org/faculty-directors/basic-characteristics-of-a-fully-developed-honors-program/>).
2. *“The honors college exists as an equal collegiate unit within a multi-collegiate university structure.”*
 - The proposed Honors College will be equal to the Delta College, as it currently is, and continue to report directly to the Vice Provost.
3. *“The head of the honors college is a dean reporting directly to the chief academic officer of the institution and serving as a full member of the Council of Deans if one exists. The dean has a fulltime, 12-month appointment.”*
 - In light of the size of The College at Brockport and the Honors community (which is similar in size to an academic major department) and the fact that the Honors administration already reports directly to the vice provost of academic affairs, it is not necessary to appoint a new dean. The proposed Honors College will continue to be administered by a faculty director and associate director.
4. *“The operational and staff budgets of honors colleges provide resources at least comparable to those of other collegiate units of equivalent size.”*
 - The budget resources of the current Honors Program are already adequate and consistent with other programs/departments.
5. *“The honors college exercises increased coordination and control of departmental honors where the college has emerged out of a decentralized system.”*
 - The current Honors Program already oversees approval of departmental honors programs as established in Senate Resolution #17 (1995-96).
6. *“The honors college exercises considerable control over honors recruitment and admissions, including the appropriate size of the incoming class. Admission to the honors college may be by separate application.”*
 - The current Honors Program directors already oversee recruitment and admissions in collaboration with the Director of Admissions and Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management. Students submit a secondary Honors application, whether they enroll as freshmen, as current Brockport students, or as transfers.
7. *“The honors college exercises considerable control over its policies, curriculum, and selection of faculty.”*
 - The current program directors already oversee policies and curriculum in consultation with the Vice Provost.
8. *“The curriculum of the honors college offers significant course opportunities across all four years of study.”*

The current Honors Program provides a four-year curriculum for entering freshmen (two years for others) that includes Honors GE courses and a Senior Thesis Project.
9. *“The curriculum of the honors college constitutes at least 20% of a student’s degree program. The honors college requires an honors thesis or honors capstone project.”*
 - Four-year Honors students currently fulfill approximately 17% of their undergraduate degree program within the Honors Program (20 credits).
10. *“Where the home university has a significant residential component, the honors college offers substantial honors residential opportunities.”*
 - The Honors LLC was established in Fall 2012 and will continue to be offered in the years ahead.
11. *“The distinction achieved by the completion of the honors college requirements is publically announced and recorded, and methods may include announcement at commencement ceremonies, notations on the diploma and/ or the student’s final transcript, or other similar actions.”*

- The proposed Honors College will require a change in the transcript notation from “Honors Program” to “Honors College.” The College will continue the existing tradition of an annual Honors graduation ceremony where students are “hooded” with the Prometheus Medal by their thesis director.
12. *“Like other colleges within the university, the honors college may be involved in alumni affairs and development and may have an external advisory board.”*
- The current Honors Program has an advisory council consisting of the two program directors plus faculty, staff and student representatives—totaling twelve members. Instituting the proposed Honors College, the council will be developed by adding alumni and external community member representatives—totaling fifteen or more members.

Letters from Michael Fox and Anne Huot...



The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

To: Executive Committee, College Senate

From: Anne E. Huot, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: February 27, 2013

Re: Honors College Proposal

I am happy to support the College Senate Resolution presented by the director and co-director of the College Honors Program to begin the transition of the program to an Honors College. The proposal has also been discussed and enjoys the support of the President's Cabinet.

The proposal is very much in line with the College's drive for increased national recognition and reinforces the public impression that the College's student body is characterized by academic excellence.

I hope that the College Senate will approve this resolution.

To: College Senate, Executive Committee
From: P. Michael Fox, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Date: February 18, 2013
Re: Resolution # Honors Program Transition to an Honors College

The College Honors Program has reported to my office for many years. During this time, it has enjoyed many capable directors, Earl Ingersoll, Mark Anderson, Ken O'Brien, and most recently Donna Kowal and co-director Priya Banerjee. There has been a steady evolution of the program in terms of the quality of the students, the numbers of students, the participation of faculty supporting student research projects, and the identification of students with the program.

I believe that it is time for the College Honors Program to take the next step by beginning the transition to an Honors College. As the proposal at hand points out, establishing an Honors College goes hand in hand with and supports the College's overarching goal of increased national recognition. The College has shown its confidence in the program by increasing scholarship awards to students highly qualified by virtue of their high school performance and their SAT scores. The program is attracting more applications from such students and is successful in giving them a "home" on the Brockport campus. The proposal before the Senate will help position the College as a leader in Honors education among the SUNY comprehensive colleges. At a time when college-age student demographics are working against us, I believe that confirming our commitment to recruiting highly-qualified students is a message that we very much wish to send.

I believe that a careful reading of the proposal will confirm the contention that National Collegiate Honors Council's best practices for Honors Colleges are largely being implemented at Brockport and that the program is ready to be designated an Honors College.

I see no disadvantages to the College through this action and I hope that the College Senate will give the proposal very serious consideration.