

From: Clayton Crockett
To: kurtb@uca.edu
Date: 8/26/2008 11:20 AM
Subject: Honors College Position Paper

Dear Kurt Bonieki,

I am responding to the Honors College Position paper which is posted online. I strongly support the Honors College proposal for recruitment, evaluation and tenure and promotion of Honors College faculty, and also recommend that the Faculty Senate repeal the sunset clause that prevents the Honors College from hiring tenure-track faculty.

The Honors College is a tremendous asset to UCA, and all faculty benefit from its success even if they do not teach honors courses. Interdisciplinary studies is vital to academic teaching and learning, and should be promoted in addition to and complementary with, but not in opposition to, department and disciplinary teaching and learning.

Furthermore, with the specialization of knowledge that already exists, many faculty are forced to evaluate departmental colleagues without any clear grasp of what counts as cutting-edge scholarship in a sub-field outside of one's own, and I submit that this is the case across the university. We have to trust and expect that our colleagues in the Honors College will adhere to the highest academic standards of teaching, research and service in their hiring, and in their decisions concerning tenure and promotion. But I do not think that the lack of a traditional disciplinary environment and disciplinary-specific peers compromises these academic standards in any way.

I would be happy to answer any questions that the Honors Discussion Panel may have.

Sincerely,

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