

## Honors Program Discussion Panel

### Honors Faculty Status Discussion

Purpose: To discuss the future status of the Honors faculty at UCA with an emphasis on whether or not Honors should be allowed to hire and tenure faculty members who are otherwise unaffiliated with academic departments at UCA.

#### Procedure:

1. The current director of Honors will submit a position paper regarding how future Honors faculty members should be recruited, hired, tenured, and promoted. The director of Honors should provide justifications to support the proposed faculty model including (if necessary) reasons for promoting Honors as an independent entity, detached from established academic departments at UCA. The position paper will be made available to the faculty on the Faculty Senate web pages. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be responsible for advertising the link to the document and ensuring that all interested faculty members have the opportunity to view it.
2. Faculty members at UCA are invited to submit formal written responses to the Honors position paper. Responses should include pragmatic suggestions for revising the Honors director's proposal or should present alternative models for Honors program staffing. Group submissions are acceptable. No anonymous submissions will be accepted. The call for position papers will be issued by the end of February, 2008. The deadline for faculty responses is June 30, 2008. **On August 21, 2008, the Faculty Senate voted to extend the deadline for submissions to August 31, 2008.**
3. A seven-member Honors discussion panel will be selected during the spring semester, 2008. The Honors discussion panel will be comprised of one elected tenured representative from each college at UCA and one tenured faculty member from the Honors program. Faculty senators from each college are charged with coordinating the nomination and election of representatives from their colleges to serve on the panel. Elections of discussion panel members may be held as special elections or may be held concurrent with spring Faculty Senate elections in April 2008. However, each college must elect a participant by May, 2008. The representative from Honors will be appointed by the director of Honors. The discussion panel will elect a chair from among its members.
4. Submissions of faculty position papers will be reviewed by members of the Honors discussion panel to ensure compliance with the basic guidelines for submission. The director of Honors will also be given the opportunity to review submitted papers and check them for factual errors or misrepresentations of Honors faculty, students, or programs. Position papers that fail to comply with the basic guidelines or papers that are found to contain distorted facts will be returned to their authors for further editing. Position papers that are submitted before the Honors discussion panel is selected will be held by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee until the discussion panel is in place.

5. Once reviewed and approved by the Honors discussion panel, submissions will be posted on the campus web portal (URSA) for the campus to read.

6. After full review of all accepted position papers, the elected panel will conduct a public discussion of the proposal, suggested revisions to the proposal, and submitted alternatives to the proposal. The length of this discussion will be determined by the Honors discussion panel and may vary depending on the volume of proposals received. The discussion date, time, and location will be determined by the Honors discussion panel. However, the discussion must take place no earlier than August 18, 2008 and not later than October 2, 2008. **On September 25, 2008, the Faculty Senate voted to extend the discussion date to no later than October 30, 2008.** The date, time, and location of the discussion should be announced via the Admin-L email listserv at least five working days before the discussion.

7. The audience to the discussion will be invited to provide written feedback related to the public discussion (however, the audience will not be allowed to participate in the panel discussion). Written feedback must be submitted to the chair of the Honors discussion panel within 5 working days of the panel discussion.

8. After the discussion and after written feedback from the discussion has been collected, the discussion panel will have ten working days to make a formal recommendation regarding the future status of the Honors program. The panel's recommendation will consider the original proposal, suggested revisions to the proposal, submitted alternatives to the proposal, and written feedback received from the audience to the discussion. If the recommendation is not unanimous, the panel's vote will be recorded and panel members voting in the minority will be permitted to attach dissenting opinions to the majority's recommendation.

9. The discussion panel's recommendation (along with any dissenting opinions) will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for immediate consideration.