



**ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**HONORS COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes**  
**October 24, 2011**  
**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Room A141**

To conform to the open meeting act, the public may attend open sessions

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Zia Nisani, Fredy Aviles, Igor Marder, Dean Tom O'Neil, Matthew Ellison, Iqra Yousufzai, and Karen Lubick were present. Susan Knapp, Rae Agahari, Angela Koritsoglou and guest, Matthew Jaffe were not present.

**2. OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE HONORS COMMITTEE CHAIR**

None

**3. OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sept. 26, 2011 (tabled until next meeting)

**5. REPORTS**

a. Alpha Iota Report

Iqra Yousufzai supplied a handout of events. We distributed it and commented briefly.

b. TAP

Ms. Knapp was not present, but Matthew Ellison commented on the need for more honors courses in the math and science. He thought there might be interest in a Calculus III honors course, but Ms. Lubick said it was too major specific for the program.

**6. ACTION ITEM**

A. Course proposals:

1. Geography 105H (Pesses) Igor Marder motioned to approve; Zia Nisani seconded.

Nisani wondered if there were legal/copyright issues associated with the use of McDonalds logo on the syllabus. He liked the use of online postings for the honors course. Matthew Ellison commented that his regular course could benefit from all the extra readings and activities that the honors course utilized.

Nisani also thought it would be great if all of our courses were taught more like the honors sections. Marder noted that there were no prerequisites except for the advisory and that could affect paper quality. O'Neil expressed that the rules for changing prerequisites on GE courses would be changing with less emphasis on data and more on faculty recommendations. Lubick concluded that the honors students can more easily digest the coursework due to their high gas and writing samples. A vote was taken.

The proposal was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Philosophy 105H (Zhu, S.)

Marder motioned to approve; Aviles seconded.

Marder liked the idea of having students present, but objected to the sole use of PowerPoint and suggested it would be more practical to call them multimedia enhanced visual presentations, giving honors students more opportunity for innovation. Nisani raised the concern that there might not be enough difference from the traditional course, especially the slight change from 20% on tests to 18%. Ellison explained how in an oral presentation the student can be tested on how knowledgeable he or she is through a good question and answer period. Yousufzai wanted to see more rigor. Ms. Lubick explained that it was an actual course and not an option proposal. Nisani wanted to see the form filled out more fully [all five boxes had been checked on Lubick's copy, but they didn't carry over to the computer version forwarded to members]. Lubick brought up the option of voting for the course proposal as contingent on the above stated recommendations. A vote was taken. The proposal was approved: (5=YES; 1=NO).

B. What criterion we will change for 2012-13

1. Writing sample

Lubick asked the committee to consider whether the writing sample should be a prompt or stay a copy of an existing paper. The committee would like it to be a paper with research. O'neil suggested that they be submitted electronically and be put through turnitin.com. Since previously poor essays have not been a means for rejecting membership (Ms. Lubick often makes recommendations to the student regarding the paper quality), but in the future, since Vento is not an English instructor, the committee will review "problem essays."

2. Letter of recommendation

When asked if we wanted to make letters of recommendation mandatory rather than optional, the committee members indicated "No." The sentiment was to let students include letters if they wish to.

3. Math requirement

The committee decided it sounded like a good idea, but we would like to have Dr. Uhazy invited to our next meeting to discuss it with us. Lubick agreed to invite him.

4. Number of courses/units

Lubick explained why we have a six course requirement when UCLA has a 15 unit one. Yousufzai thought it wasn't too difficult to complete six courses; she started her second year and has only one more to complete. Ellison also thought the contract options make it easy to complete.

5. Grade point average

During this discussion of maintaining the 3.25 g.p.a. for certification, the committee decided that a 15 unit minimum course requirement could be instituted if at least 9 units were from honors sections. O'Neil mentioned that the transfer model curricula would have high enough standards anyway for GE courses.

7. **DISCUSSION**

Two year planning

The committee would like to see Comm 103 added to the two year plan. The goal would be to have a mathematics offering every Spring rather than every semester due to the low enrollment. Due to two fine arts courses being offered in Spring, 2012 and the resignation of the instructor of the pending Art course for F2012, it was decided to not offer a fine art for just this one semester unless another instructor comes forward. It was agreed that Deb Feickert would teach the next honors section of Biol 101 rather than Nisani. Lubick needs to check with Goodman regarding whether PoliSci 101H will be offered in Spring or Fall. The honors plan will include the following: Fine Art (1); Science (1 Phys, 1 Nat); English (101 Fall; 102/103 Spring); Literature (Spring); Comm (Fall); Soc. and Beh. Science (2-3).

8. **OTHER**

Next meeting (course proposals for Hist. 108H; Engl 102)

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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