



**ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE
HONORS COMMITTEE MEETING
March 28, 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**
2. **OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE HONORS COMMITTEE CHAIR**
3. **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. 2/28/11
5. **PRESENTATION**
6. **REPORTS**
 - a. Alpha Iota Report (Dr. Matt Jaffe/Myesha Britt and/or Elaine Tsai)
 - b. AGS Convention
 - c. Convocation Update and Budget
7. **ACTION ITEM**
 - a. History 105H Course Proposal (Matt Jaffe)
 - b. Honors Option Contract Proposals
8. **DISCUSSION**
 - a. Future of the Honors Program
9. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**
10. **OTHER**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Members Present	Members Absent	Guests in Attendance
Karen Lubick	Rae Agahari	Dr. Matt Jaffe
Kathy Moore		Myesha Britt – Alpha Iota rep
Dr. Zia Nisani		Elaine Tsai - ASO
Dr. Igor Marder		
Susan Knapp		
Dr. Fredy Aviles		
Dr. Tom O’Neil		

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1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
Ms. Karen Lubick, Honors Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.
2. **OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE HONORS COMMITTEE CHAIR - None**
3. **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None**
5. **PRESENTATIONS - None**
6. **REPORTS**
 - a. **Alpha Iota Report (Myesha Britt)** – Alpha Iota is preparing to go to the convention with items for sale. On April 16, they will volunteer time to SaddleUp, the riding facility for disabled individuals. They will also be donating \$150 to the library per semester for the purchase of books. They are also working on their scholarship fund. They give scholarships to two students from Lancaster High School in the amount of \$150/each. Last year, only one student came forward for the scholarship so it was decided that the whole amount would be awarded. They would follow the same procedure this year if this should happen. Alpha Iota will be working with the ASO on helping the Hearts n Hand Food Pantry plus a candy sale in the near future. Ms. Lubick mentioned to the members that this is the only group on campus that has excess monies in the treasury and is able to apply these funds to many philanthropic events throughout the valley. She also pointed out that the students who are going to the convention are paying one-half of their own costs.
 - b. **Alpha Gamma Sigma Convention (Dr. Matt Jaffe)** – Dr. Jaffe commented that the convention will be held in the southern sector this year at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario. The group has been making badges and their newsletter to display and there will be a cheer contest. There will be an advisor meeting followed by a Saturday evening awards ceremony and finished off with a dance. All participants will return home on Sunday. Ms. Lubick is the vice-chair of scholarships and awards and will be giving out the outstanding advisor award. She will also be speaking at the advisor meeting. She has also been working closely with the Student Development Office and all details have been taken care of. There was an issue with risk management in that the students would not be provided transportation so all must find their own way there. Finally, the confidential person on last meeting’s agenda who had planned to go has bowed out and another student has been put in that place.
 - c. **Convocation Update and Budget - none**

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. History 105H Course Proposal (M. Jaffe) – Dr. Jaffe has provided copies of his proposal along with the course syllabus plus the regular course syllabus. Dr. Jaffe informed the members that his course will parallel History 104 courses. The 105 course covers world civilization from 1500 to present. It starts with the age of discovery and work toward present day. Sometimes he will have videos but most classes will be discussion based in seminar format. The readings will come from a book by Kevin Riley call Worlds of History, Vol. 1. The students will write a two-page analytical paper on one of the topics each time the book is discussed. Each student must come right to the point. This would require them to use critical thinking and analysis. The class will consist of this take-home assignment, a mid term and a final. They will learn about many countries and many famous people associated with those countries. This course will be taught in the Fall of 2011.

Ms. Lubick requested a motion from the members to approve or disapprove this honors course. A motion and a second was forthcoming to approve this course. With no further discussion, the proposal was unanimously approved .

b. Honors Option Contract Proposals (both of these options each contain a student who is completing their sixth TAP certification for UCLA and this is their final semester – UCLA only demands 5 but AVC requires 6)

1. Biology 120 - Ms. Adams queried on what was Biology 120. Ms. Knapp relayed that it is the biology for science majors. It is the second semester, university level 5 unit class and is used by people who are possibly heading to medical school. Ms. Lubick requested a motion and second to discuss. After receiving such and after reading through the material, Dr. Nisani stated that he sees the same requirements that would apply to just the regular course and nothing beyond that would constitute it being an honors option. Ms. Lubick requested a motion from the members to approve or disapprove this honors option course. A motion and a second were forthcoming to disapprove this option as it does not meet the requirements and with no further discussion, the motion passed with one abstention. Ms. Lubick will be forwarded back to the instructor this information.

2. CHEM 210 (Introduction to Organic Chemistry) - Ms. Lubick requested a motion and second to discuss. After receiving such, one of the members queried about the personal information that is contained in the option. Ms. Lubick spoke with him about this and that he had included his resume. He still insisted that the option contain this information and wanted to forward it to the committee. Dr. O'Neil made a comment that he would like to see a course like this or one from biology to be taught within Second Life. This course is scheduled for the fall 2011. All were very impressed with the option and found it full of detail. Dr. Aviles just had a concern about what quality of paper would be required and that it would need the guidance of the instructor. The instructor has provided a list of historical and scientific issues which the student can choose from for their honors credit topic. Ms. Lubick requested a motion to approve or disapprove this honors option course. A motion and a second were forthcoming to approve this option and with no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION

a. Future of the Honors Program – Ms. Lubick stated that the Office of Academic Affairs has not been asking to cut many of the honors classes. The budget issue will probably change that as we go along. The hardest courses to fill are math and science. When they are put in the schedule at the request of students, they rarely sign up. For this current semester, we were not able to fill the honors math class, so it was decided to make it a mixed class of regular and honors. Professor Tran is having a hard time with this as the honors are not finding the time to meet outside of class and the regular students do not want to deal with honors business. Math Statistics will be offered again as a section for the fall 2011. She stated that it had been an approved goal of the Honors Committee to require the ability to enter Math 102 to be in honors but it has yet to be implemented. Too many students need to enter into the lower classes of math but can get into English 101 so they have been accepted into the honors program. She feels that this should be changed in the future.

If the committee gets the opportunity to choose which class must be cut in the fall if one must be, she will choose the one that is not filling up. If Ms. Lubick does not have that option, she has spoken with

Dr. Chapman who teaches sociology and he will volunteer his class to cut. If there is need for one more, the statistics class will be chosen next and turned into a regular class. A question also came up about the terms that are ending for the committee. The only one ending is Kathy Moore and she is choosing not to re-up.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS - none

- 10. OTHER** – Ms. Lubick relayed that a situation had just come up in regard to UC system. She deferred the explanation to Ms. Knapp. She explained that the UC system is putting a cap on the number of units. They are not accepting students with a high number of units. They feel that these students are ones who want to be “life-time students” with no idea of what they want to do with their education. They feel they would not have the drive to become full-time students and work diligently towards their major and graduation. Right now, we have one student at AVC in the honors program that is in this predicament and has been denied admission. We have recommended that they appeal. The circumstances behind this are that person went to a liberal arts college beforehand (94 transferrable units to UC system). UCLA has a similar policy in place but AVC has never had to deal with this type of problem. UCLA and the system wants, due to budget issues, each student to complete their degree in the shortest amount of time in the major you declared. If you wish to change majors, that would not be allowed and you would have to leave. You cannot take units off your transcripts. There could be an exception to students who are math/science majors who take the very high unit classes and you could very well end up with a high amount. Ms. Knapp said that she warns students not to pad their schedules with miscellaneous classes just to be able to get the full financial aid amount. It would be better to take fewer classes and move some of that financial aid to the next semester. Dr. O’Neil mentioned that with SB1440, it is the driving force behind this issue in both the UC and CSU systems. Both systems want students to come in with only 60 units and no more. There are some exceptions if you have more which come from STEM classes. If a student ends up with a high number of units, it could have repercussions of charging that student the out-of-state or international student rate.

He also stated that at Cerritos College, the student is only allowed to take one basic skills course which leads directly to the system-bearing course for credit. All other basic skills are put in community services and they are charged out-of-state tuition for it. The idea is that those students should have learned this in high school and you will pay the price now if you want to advance.

Ms. Britt mentioned that it is an unfortunate fact that the just-out-of-high school student who does not know anything gets guidance from general counseling that is leading them on the path of putting unnecessary classes into their schedule or not taking the right ones. She voiced concern about Counseling services.

Ms. Knapp of Counseling commented that she was offended by this comment. She felt Ms. Britt was out of line by making derogatory comments without having complete information in regard to general counseling.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the March 28, 2011 Honors Committee Meeting at 2:52 p.m. Motion carried.