



March 8, 2017

Katherine McCormick
Chair, University of Kentucky Senate Council

Dear Dr. McCormick,

The Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure (SAOSC) met on March 6, 2016, from 1:30 -2:30 at 103 Main Building, to discuss the response of the Lewis College Transition Committee to the charges made by the University Senate at the April 2016 meeting. The report was dated December 9, 2016 and provided to the SAOSC by Dr. Harling on January 30, 2017. Committee members present included David Atwood, Al Cross, Mike Kilgore, Todd Porter, Devanathan Sudarshan, Melinda Wilson and myself. Lisa Vaillaincourt could not attend but provided some questions and comments. Phil Harling (acting dean of Honors College), Leon Sachs and Bruce Webb participated in the meeting on behalf of the Transition Committee.

The Honors College was established by the Board of Trustees last year but the structure was not established for the program. The SAOSC recommended and the University Senate approved a request that the Provost create a transition committee to address the following points:

- 1. Assist in recruitment of new dean for the Lewis Honors College**
- 2. Determine the overall composition of the faculty for the Honors College and a regulatory structure to govern faculty eligibility and involvement**
- 3. Consider the appropriate staffing for the Honors College**
- 4. Determine the criteria for participating in faculty governance in the Honors College.**
- 5. Determine how to ensure diversity of both faculty and students in the Honors College as well as access for students of diverse economic and social backgrounds.**
- 6. Recommend how to ensure effective consultation of the Honors College Dean and Faculty with the Deans of other colleges, faculty participating in the program (associate faculty), and the External Advisory Committee.**
- 7. Assess the plans for economic sustainability of the Honors College**
- 8. Recommend an initial Honors Faculty of Record for the Honors College and develop a governance for membership terms and renewals.**
- 9. Identify how the proposal will ensure success for other colleges as well as provide unique educational opportunities to students.**

The Transition Committee provided a response to questions 2-9 plus considerations about the nature of the Honors and the curriculum. The curriculum issues are being considered elsewhere and are not a matter for this committee. The report was viewed favorably by the committee.

One point deserves particular attention. The Governing Regulations establishing the Honors College states that all faculty in the Honors College would have primary appointments in other

colleges. However, the Transition Committee opined that the College mission would be better served if a cohort of instructors had primary appointments in the Honors College. Therefore the Transition Committee provided a second document proposing a change in the Governing Regulations to allow for primary appointment of lecturers in the Honors College.

By way of explanation, two concerns led to the initial recommendation by the SAOSC and the Senate that lecturers have primary appointments in other departments: 1) the careers of lecturers may be better served if they had appointments in the colleges representing their academic disciplines and, 2) having a college populated by untenurable faculty would decrease the academic freedom within the unit. Dean Harling responded that the Honors College would seek joint appointments for faculty with other colleges and also involve faculty from the appropriate disciplines during hiring and evaluation of lecturers. These provisions were discussed by the committee and would be included in the rules of procedure for the college. Also, governance of the college would be based on the faculty of record, the majority of whom would be tenured or tenurable faculty from other colleges.

Other questions concerned economic sustainability, extent to which the courses would be run by tenured faculty from other colleges, support from other colleges and the extent to which the students would be integrated across programs on campus. These points were well represented in the report from the transition committee and the responses of Dean Harling and Profs. Sach and Webb supported those views.

In summary:

- 1) The SAOSC endorses the Honors College Transition Committee report (dated December 9, 2016) and its contents and recommends endorsement by the Senate.
- 2) The SAOSC recommends that the Senate endorse a change to Governing Regulation VII (University Organization) to allow primary appointments of lecturers in the Lewis Honors College.

On behalf of SAOSC,

Ernie Bailey, chair SAOSC