



**ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE
HONORS COMMITTEE MEETING
November 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: Karen Lubick (chair), Dean Tom O’Neil, Zia Nisani, Susan Knapp, Fredy Aviles, Igor Marder, Angela Koritsoglou, Iqra Yousufzai, Matthew Ellison all present. Rae Agahari not present. Guests present: Dr. Jaffe, Dr. Uhazy, Scott Memmer.** (Koritsoglou agreed to take the minutes in lieu of an admin. asst.)
2. **OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE HONORS COMMITTEE CHAIR**
Lubick quickly announced that Honors sections of courses were filling, that she had conducted observations in two honors classrooms (Heebner’s ThArts 101H & McDermott’s Comm 101H), and she asked to move agenda items forward to accommodate guests. Consensus achieved.
3. **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC--none**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sept. 26, 2011; October 24, 2011**
Motion by O’Neil; Knapp 2nd; Approval was UNANIMOUS
Knapp indicated some typos would be forthcoming for correction. Knapp inquired about follow up issues from previous meeting, and Lubick stated that the matters had been addressed.
5. **REPORTS**
 - a. Alpha Iota Report (Dr. Jaffe/Iqra Yousufzai/Matthew Ellison)
Due to lack of time, report was distributed and not discussed. Lubick announced the Alpha Iota Holiday party and invited all members for Mon., Dec. 12th from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. at her home.
 - b. TAP (Susan Knapp)
Due to lack of time, report was distributed and briefly highlighted before adjournment.
6. **ACTION ITEM: Motion, 2nd, Discussion, Vote**
 - a. Eligibility for Math 102 would go into effect Fall, 2012
Motion by Nisani; O’Neil 2nd; Vote UNANIMOUS
Uhazy suggested we ask for completion of Math 102. He reported that approximately 8-9% of incoming students are placing in Math 102 or higher. Discussion ensued about any impact of prerequisites in Economics courses. Uhazy indicated that improvement was being seen in Astronomy and Geology, but the courses were not filling as well. Knapp argued for eligibility being a sufficient entry requirement for Honors. Lubick gave a counter example of a successful honors student who had to petition to replace her math requirement with Philosophy due to insufficient confidence to pass mathematics. This was considered an exceptional case. Ellison argued that eligibility would be better for non-math/science majors. The committee agreed that since the math courses are not filling, we should consider scheduling carefully until the Math 102 requirement becomes widespread among existing honors students. Discussion ensued about the importance of creating an IGETC component for Biol 104; therefore, enabling it to gill and possibly become an honors section. Knapp will speak to Grishman about establishing it.
 - b 1. Course proposals: Approve Memmer’s English 102H Course Proposal
Motion by Knapp; Nisani 2nd; Vote UNANIMOUS
Memmer was present to discuss his upcoming course. He started by relaying his credentials (taught at AVC 6 yrs., tenured, taught lots of sections of English 101/102). He focused on the necessity to emphasize poetry in the course as a means of developing both appreciation and

critical analysis skills. He described his four major paper assignments and the proposed oral poetry presentation and also reported two upcoming flex events that students could attend. He discussed two potential novels for use in the course. His research paper would be early enough to give students ample feedback. Lubick suggested the potential to switch the fourth paper assignment to an in-class essay if time constraints occur. Knapp liked the research component and timetable. Ellison said the course was consistent with the English 102H course he had taken with Ahmad.

b 2. Course proposals: Approve Shafer's History 108H Course Proposal

Motion by Nisani; Knapp 2nd; Vote UNANIMOUS

Lubick summarized the key points from the proposal: thematic approach, extra supplemental textbooks, and Blackboard assignment. Other members also noted the seminar format, optional field trip to Nixon library and use of both secondary and primary sources for research. Discussion ensued as to whether the SLOs needed to be on the syllabus. Jaffe commented that he liked the innovation and focus on foreign policy as well as domestic issues.

c. Honors option course proposals: Approve Towe's Physics 211 Contract Option Proposal

Motion by Nisani; Knapp/O'Neil 2nd; Vote UNANIMOUS

Lubick explained how the Millikan Oil Drop experiment provided an opportunity for honors students to do contracts late in the semester, and that she had made an exception on the due date for these students. Knapp thought the write up was well done and Lubick liked that the book was available on reserve. O'Neil asked if it might be videotaped or podcasted for others' use. Ellison said he is in the class and would see if that were possible. Nisani thought the experiment was good for lab credit. Ellison was asked to refrain from the vote due to conflict of interest.

Lubick then provided follow-up on two past related issues. Koppers had not had an opportunity to supply a revised honors option contract proposal. S. Zhu had supplied the missing info on the Phil 105H course proposal and would be considering the committee's suggestions.

d. What criterion we will change for 2012-13

1. Writing sample

Lubick reiterated that the sample would remain, and that poor samples could be reviewed at future committee meetings.

2. Letter of recommendation—no change/still optional

3. Math requirement—Change per above discussion and vote

4. Number of courses/units: Change TAP certification units to match UCLA req.

Motion by Knapp to begin discussing the number of units to fulfill TAP certification, possibly changing from six classes to 15 units; Nisani 2nd. After discussion, motion was withdrawn. No vote was taken. Issue will be reconsidered in the future.

Knapp is in favor of retaining the six course option and having the counselor and coordinator consider reducing the requirement to 15 units only in special cases where three honors sections have been completed. O'Neil reported that with institution of SB1440, the UC/CSU requirements would dictate completion of GE anyway. Extraneous classes taken toward degrees would not necessarily be counted. Lubick asked if in addition to the curricular changes if any courses would need to be created. Aviles answered that one such course is the Research Methods course for the Social Sciences that he created. O'Neil also mentioned that the literature sequence needs to be looked at. Koritsoglou and Lubick indicated that was being done. Lubick asked if the group wanted to keep the requirement to six courses. Ellison asked if the reason for extra coursework was to set a higher bar. Lubick and Knapp indicated that had previously been the choice of the committee. Knapp relayed that UCLS is primarily concerned with g.p.a. and Lubick added that they want to see "focus." Ellison wondered if a student might stay an unnecessary extra year to fulfill the TAP units, but Knapp and Lubick explained that if they seek honors counseling (one of the annual requirements of the program), they should stay on track. Yousufzai thinks the 15 is fine as she needs one more honors course to complete 18. Knapp wants to see focus on solid

honors courses. O'Neil stressed that this should be made known through marketing and brochures. Marder thought the requirement should stay at least 15 units. O'Neil stated to keep it to six courses. There was no need to take a vote as consensus was to retain the six course minimum until the new honors coordinator could revisit the issue.

5. Grade point average—no change suggested

Lubick relayed that UCLA requires 3.2 but AVC requires 3.25 with some exceptions; however, most student must achieve much higher to gain entry. In the last few years, students have been denied with lower g.p.a.s.

DISCUSSION: Two year planning (No time left)

8. **OTHER**

9. **ADJOURNMENT at 3:02 p.m.: Knapp Motioned; Nisani 2nd. All approved**

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