



**ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE
HONORS COMMITTEE MEETING
September 24, 2012
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**
Members present: Paul Ahad, Matthew Ellison, Barbara Fredette, Angela Koritsoglou, Igor Marder, Tom O’Neil, Michael Pesses, and John Vento
Members absent: Susan Knapp
Guests: Matthew Jaffe and Karen Lubick
2. **OPENING COMMENTS FROM THE HONORS COMMITTEE CHAIR**
 - a. Vento presented norms and expectations for the committee and asked for positions and feedback.
 1. Cell phones:
The committee agreed that if cell phones are out, they should be set on vibrate.
 2. Side conversations:
The committee agreed that side conversations should be kept to a minimum.
 3. Missing meetings:
Everyone agreed that missing meetings should be kept to a minimum.
 4. Delegation of work/tasks:
The committee agreed that members should volunteer, and, when needed, Vento should delegate.
 5. What do you expect from the coordinator?
The committee noted that they expect the coordinator to delegate work, keep the committee informed, distribute the agenda early, be organized, and put students first.
 6. What do you expect from committee members?
The committee expects honesty, cooperation, attendance, collegiality, and healthy debates from each other.
3. **OPEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC—none**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. March 26, 2012
Marder motioned; Pesses seconded; O’Neil abstained; all others were in favor with one correction: there is only one “l” in O’Neil.
5. **REPORTS—none**
6. **ACTION ITEM—none**
7. **DISCUSSION**
 - a. Approval of Honors Proposal for THA 101H: Vento presented the course proposal for THA 101H noting that the professor originally assigned to teach the course was unable to teach it, and Stephan Wolfert volunteered to teach the class, which is why the committee is reviewing the proposal while the course is currently in session. The committee usually reviews a course proposal one semester to a year in advance. Vento has been meeting with Stephan Wolfert to discuss and revise the proposal. There was confusion over the rubric scale. The committee concerned that peer evaluations would factor into the assignment grade. It was also noted that student attendance cannot affect a student’s grade. Vento asked the members for a motion to approve the proposal for THA 101H with the following feedback: peer evaluations should not factor into an assignment grade, the grading rubric should be clarified, and absences should not affect the overall course grade. A motion was made by Pesses and seconded by Marder. All were in favor.
 - b. Approval of Honors Proposal for ENGL 253H: African American Literature, 1930-Present: Lubick began the discussion by explaining that the English department was planning on offering a different honors course for Spring 2013, which was previously approved; however, the English department was concerned that the class would not fill. In place of this course, the English Department would like to offer African American Literature, 1930-present. Mark Hoffer is approved to teach honors courses, but the course has not been approved. The committee agreed that the course theme and the approaches listed in the handout meet honors criteria. Vento asked the members for a motion to approve the inclusion of ENGL

253H in the Spring 2013 schedule with the following provisions: Mark Hoffer should submit the Honors Course Proposal form along with the syllabus for the committee to approve. A motion was made by Koritsoglou and seconded by Fredette. All were in favor.

c. Approval of Honors Option Contract for Richard Balogh's Astronomy 101 course: Vento explained to the committee that he has accepted the proposal contingent on committee approval. The committee noted that the proposed project promotes critical thinking. After much discussion, the committee agreed that a compare and contrast approach would be more effective for this particular assignment since it would offer the student more choices to define the approach and explore the body of research associated with this topic. Vento asked the members for a motion to approve the Honors Option Contract for Richard Balogh's Astronomy 101 course. A motion was made by Ahad and seconded by Fredette. All voted against approving the Honors Contract. The Honors Contract for Richard Balogh's Astronomy 101 course was rejected. The committee asks Richard Balogh to consider the following: a compare and contrast model, deeper exploration by the student, and shorter length. The committee would like a rewrite of the contract in one week. The committee will vote on the revised contract in October.

8. **OTHER**

9. **ADJOURNMENT (3:11p.m.)**

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