



# Honors Committee Minutes

Monday, January 22, 2024  
ZOOM Meeting  
2:30-4:00 PM

**Type of Meeting:** *Regular*

**Note Taker:** Towana Catley

**Please Review/Bring:** Agenda Packet & Minutes

*Committee members:*

**(Attendance is reflected in bold)**

Towana Catley, Faculty Co-Chair

**Dr. Darcy Wiewall, Faculty Co-Chair**

**Dr. Jedidiah Lobos, Dean MSE Administrative Member**

**Rae Agahari, Arts & Humanities**

**Nathasha Hong, Counseling**

Dietra Jackson, Counseling

Elinda Parkinson, Health & Safety Sciences

**Jacqueline Seekamp, Library**

**Kaitlin Bessinger, Math Sciences Engineering**

Mike Pesses, Math Sciences Engineering

**Pavinee Villapando, Math Sciences Engineering**

**Greg Langner, Language & Communication Arts**

**Dr. Matthew Jaffe, Social & Behavioral Sciences**

David L. Adams, Social & Behavioral Sciences

Kevin North, At-Large

**Dr. Rachel Jennings Tafarella, At-Large**

Alberto Mendoza Gonzalez Larreynaga,

Adjunct Representative

Vejea Jennings, Ex-Officio

**John Vento, Ex-Officio**

Colton Beardsley, ASO Representative Rita

Jarbanda, ASO Representative

OPEN, Athletics & Kinesiology

OPEN, Career Technical Education

Items	Person	Action
I. Call to Order and Roll Call	Towana & Darcy	Called to order at 2:36PM
II. Open Comments from the Public		
III. Informational Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honors Ambassadors Update</li> <li>• Honors TAP Regalia Update</li> <li>• MUS101 Honors Spring 2024 Update</li> </ul>	Towana & Darcy	<p><b>Honors Ambassador update:</b> now working with Dr. Zimmerman since Kenya Johnson has left.</p> <p><b>Tap Regalia Update:</b> possible new funding from the senate to purchase regalia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rae: Possibility of purchasing new Honors regalia for faculty involved in the program</li> </ul> <p>Darcy: presidents and dean's list has the highest number since 2020. These are possible students that can be recruited to honors.</p>

<p>IV. Approval of Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of Minutes – November 27, 2023</li> </ul>	<p><i>All</i></p>	<p><b>Issues Discussed:</b></p> <p>Mathew Jaffe: Correction - Music 101 honors proposal “ the course showed up” as an honors course</p> <p>Kevin North: Correction - Gary Heaton-Smith is chair and not dean</p> <p><b>Action Taken:</b></p> <p>Motion to approve: Matthew Jaffe</p> <p>Second: Kevin North</p> <p>Follow Up Items:</p>
<p>V. Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<p><i>All</i></p>	
<p>VI. Action Item</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENGL 102 PUENTE Honors Proposal \ Bianca Ascencio</li> <li>• Honors Student Mixer Spring</li> <li>• 2023-24 Subject Area Awards Memorandum Revise</li> </ul>	<p><i>All</i></p>	<p><b><u>Engl 102 Puente Honors proposal:</u></b></p> <p><b>Issues Discussed:</b></p> <p><b>Action Taken:</b></p> <p>ENGL 102 Puente Honors proposal: Greg Langner motions to approve; Kaitlin Bessinger seconds. All members in attendance are in favor.</p> <p>Follow Up Items:</p>
<p>VII. Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENGL 102 PUENTE Honors Proposal \ Bianca Ascencio</li> <li>• Honors Option Contract System Revision</li> <li>• Honors Student Mixer Spring</li> <li>• 2023-24 Subject Area Awards Memorandum Revise</li> <li>• Status on Open Honors courses \ G. Langner</li> </ul>	<p><i>All</i></p>	<p>Issues</p> <p>Action Taken:</p> <p>Follow Up Items:</p> <p>Discussed:</p> <p><b><u>ENGL 102 PUENTE Honors Proposal:</u></b></p> <p>Presented by Bianca Ascencio. Honors option includes an independent research project where students will write a paper on the impact of colonization on indigenous civilizations. Project requires independent research, the use of primary and secondary sources, and a presentation of the findings. Biweekly meetings with the instructor are required. Project will allow students to explore their cultural heritage and develop their critical thinking skills.</p>

Discussion: English 102 Honors is already approved and is transferable to the UC's. Classes should parallel one another.

John Vento asks for clarification that this is an honors option and not a separate course proposal. Research is separate from what is required in the non-honors option of the course. Also mentions possible re-evaluation of the due date to the end of week 12/13.

Rachel Jennings suggests cutting back on the number of assignments so that they are not due each week.

Gregg Langner suggests adding a presentation and notes that the course should align with ENG 102 Honors.

**Honors student mixer:** When should it be held? Mid-spring semester. Poll faculty for availability. Two possible options: the week before or week after spring break. Poll will be sent to honors and honors option faculty to see which day works best.

**Subject Areas Awards memorandum:** Goal was to send this week. Vanessa Escobar currently working on generating a student list for faculty to use to make sure the nominated student qualifies. A memorandum will not be sent until after list is complete. Darcy: "Save the date" email to remind faculty that the subject awards are coming and when the due date is for awards submission is (March 22<sup>nd</sup>). Jedidiah has created a new scoring rubric that can be distributed to faculty.

Note: Crossover between subjects: many students will receive nominations from faculty in different subjects due to overlap in degree requirement.

Possible follow up: Should extracurriculars be added to the scoring rubric?

Informational Item: Nominations must be submitted to the department admin and dean. Faculty are now responsible for checking to make sure that students qualify.

• Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 3:52pm
• <b>NEXT MEETING DATE: February 26, 2024</b>		