Honors Student Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes 1/27/2013

In Attendance: Courtney, Ashley, Martin, Grace, April, Emily, Jessica, Stacy, Valarie, Matthew, Tina, Lindsey, Ethan, Autumn

Call to Order: 7:38pm

Events for Semester: - Chair / Co-Chair / Tri-Chair

* Chancellor’s Gala – April / Jeremiah
* Motown Cabaret – April / Jeremiah
* Denali Winterfest – Martin / Matthew
* Excellence in Teaching Luncheon – Grace / Ashley / Emily
* Elections – Jessica
* Opportunities for Summer – Jessica
* Open Liberal Arts – Ashley / Stacy
* Ice Park – Matthew
* Chena Hot Springs – Emily
* Constitution Party – pending

At the Chancellor’s Gala, we will allocate people initially for 4 at the coat check, 3 at the auction and 3 greeting. Throughout the night these allocation will alter. However, only 8 people have been RSVPed for the Gala. The existing list of volunteers includes: Courtney, Jeremiah, April, Valarie, Emily, Stacy, Ashley and Matthew. April will solicit more volunteers from the Honors Program via the listserv and via a poster sign up.

The Motown Cabaret is very similar in construction to the Chancellor’s Gala, however it requires only 2 people. The existing list of volunteers is as follows: Ashley, April, Jeremiah, Matthew, Emily, and Martin. Either Jeremiah or April must be in attendance due to previous contact and implicit roles and responsibilities. This event will occur on Friday, February 15th at 5pm.

Denali Winterfest will occur the weekend of February 22nd – 24th. Winterfest includes a plethora of fun wintery activities, with a volunteer component. Honors Students receive free housing, food and access to the Winterfest events in exchange for shoveling the Denali Education Center buildings. Jessica will send an email investigating the status of this opportunity this week. Martin and Matthew will co-chair the event, with Martin serving as the primary point of contact. Martin will communicate with the Dr. Laursen and Kerrie pertaining to Honors Program funding and participation in this event. Further Matthew will create a notification for the listserv and post applicable fliers advertising the events existence.

Jessica will chair the Summer Opportunities event. Jessica will investigate house availability and solicit presenters for the event. Potential volunteer presenters from within the Council include: Ashley, Martin, Jessica and Courtney. Further Jessica will endeavor to find a catchy name and include free food.

The Excellence in Teaching Luncheon will occur the first week in April. There is an existing tri-chair in the form of Emily, Ashley and Grace. The event will most probably occur on Tuesday, April 2nd or Thursday, April 4th during dead hour. All council members are to brainstorm theme ideas for this year’s EnT.

Open Liberal Arts will be co-chaired between Ashley and Stacy. The co-chairs will meet this week to discuss the all-important question of “What is it?”

The Chena Hot Springs trip will be hosted by Emily either on Friday March 8th or Friday March 22nd.

The Ice Park trip will be hosted by Matthew and will occur on either Friday March 8th or Friday, March 22nd. Matthew will communicate with the Honors Program to discuss the usage of Honors Program funding.

The Have a Heart Auction benefiting the Fairbanks Boys and Girls Club will be occurring in February. Stacy will investigate whether an expressed student interest has occurred, as well as ascertaining the details. This discussion will continue next meeting.

The meeting time will remain at 7:30 – 9pm on Sundays for a planned meeting length of 1.5 hours. Discussion of a different meeting time will cease until after Spring Break.

Kitchen signs have been posted and thus far proved ineffective. Jeremiah posted 2 signs with the blessing of the Honors Program this week. However, the Honors House pipes are frozen and as such have created some back up with the dishwasher. Lindsey stated that she has personal knowledge of several of the kitchen vandals and asked for the council’s recommendation for what to do with that information. The council recommended that Lindsey personally communicate with the individual kitchen vandals and after such a communication if the kitchen vandals do not reply and continue their actions – she will communicate with Honors Program staff the names of the individual kitchen vandals.

Martin proposed that the kitchen be closed on a temporary basis, however this suggestion was not favorably agreed to. Much discussion ensued over the house contract and enforcement of the house contract. The conclusions of which are to have council members communicate with the members of the honors community pertaining to the contract, education of what it is and following through with respect of the contract. While it was generally agreed that postures were too passive, additional posters will be posted and the council will continue with the posture campaign. Ashley will communicate with Dr. Laursen about the HSAC’s concerns over the lack of contract enforcement and whether the Honors Program keeps any records of contracts.

It was brought to the attention of the council that noise levels were out of control during finals week and in general there were occurrences of students being disrespectful to other student’s study habits. Some suggestion that further contract awareness may in fact increase the level of respect was made. Courtney posed the question “Does a quiet policy exist?” There was a general agreement from the council members that during finals week the Honors House is a quiet study zone. However, the noise control issue appears to be only the tip of a cultural iceberg, with so many new additions to the Honors Program, a studying culture is not occurring in the house, and students are not giving preference to printing, study groups, etc. The HSAC would like to alter this culture and reestablish the preference of academic priority. It was suggested to post another poster reminding students of general courtesy. The HSAC’s action is to have a small presentation during all the Honors classes in the house reminding students to be courteous.

The HSAC Constitution will be attacked one section minimum a week. However, the next revision of the HSAC Constitution needs to be done by February HFAC meeting.

Cake and celebration of Emily’s birthday to commence. Meeting is adjourned at 9:08pm