

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Honors Program, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorization to Allow the Honors Program to Appoint Faculty

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

The Honors Program in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) was established in 1957 as a “funding only” unit and was given a budget for teaching by faculty with appointments in other schools and colleges. The purpose of this request is to change the program’s status to an “instructional unit” enabling it to appoint faculty but not be a tenure home.

The Honors Program provides challenge and enrichment for the college’s top undergraduate students through special courses, independent research, and the senior Honors thesis. The program currently serves approximately 1800 students with courses across LSA, academic advising, and activities. Honors also includes its own interdisciplinary seminars and special courses taught on occasion by visiting faculty. First- and second-year Honors students take eight Honors courses, including Great Books or Classical Civilizations, which meets their first year writing requirement. The program plans to strengthen the central course requirements by having these students select three Honors Core courses created especially for this purpose.

The Honors Program will sponsor the creation of broad-based, extra-disciplinary courses in each of the three divisions of the college; humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences, and will invite select UM faculty experienced with the program to join a development team of twelve Honors faculty fellows. Each fellow will develop a course for the Honors Core, offering it once a year for a three-year period. This group will also act as the faculty advisory board for the Honors Program. The program will depend upon a commitment from faculty, thus each faculty fellow will receive a quarter-time appointment in Honors for the duration of their three-year term.

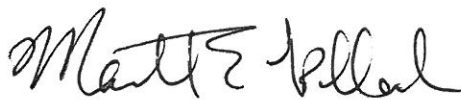
The Honors College Executive Committee endorsed the proposal to create an Honors Core Curriculum in April 2014. LSA will provide three full-time faculty lines to cover the twelve quarter-time positions that the Honors Core requires. These will be joint appointments with the faculty members’ home units. This change will enable the program an establish control over a stable core curriculum. We respectfully request approval to offer joint appointments in the Honors Program.

Recommended by:



Susan A. Gelman
Heinz Werner Distinguished University Professor,
Professor of Psychology, and Interim Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Recommendation endorsed by:



Martha E. Pollack
Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs

July 2014