

University Honors Council Annual Report AY 2017-18

Meeting of October 30, 2017

The UHC sits as the curriculum committee for the Burnett Honors College. In this capacity, the committee reviewed 3 interdisciplinary seminar proposals.

HIS/SPW 3930H: The Allure of Tyranny or the Corruptibility of Human Nature - APPROVED

PAD/ECO 3930H: Everglades Restoration APPROVED

GIS/DIG 3930H: Digital and Spatial Storytelling and Social Change - REVISE AND RESUBMIT

UHC members participated in the dean search and the director of Honors Research search.

Meeting of Feb. 16, 2018

The UHC reviewed two interdisciplinary seminar proposals:

GIS/DIG 3930H: Digital and Spatial Storytelling and Social Change - APPROVED

IDH 3930H: Poetry of the Afterlife, REVISE AND RESUBMIT

Working in subcommittees the UHC selected the Founder's Day recipients for best HIM.

- Social Sciences, Business, and Education: Rebecca Fate
- Natural Sciences and Health Sciences: Heidi Waite
- Engineering and Technology: Arjun Watane
- Arts, Humanities, and Creative Inquiry: Rachael Rothstein-Safra

The UHC and HIM coordinators discussed revisions to the HIM program. These include allowing lecturers to chair the HIM thesis. Lecturers are full-time UCF faculty with terminal degrees, so including them in the process could be rewarding and could open up more opportunities for students and faculty. Also, we considered whether requiring an overall GPA of 3.4 is an inequitable barrier to some student participation. Overall GPA includes transfer grades, and some students who are doing great at UCF didn't do so well at a state college or other institution. It was agreed to recommend lowering the grade point average for admission to a 3.2 Overall or UCF GPA.

We proposed the change for two main reasons. First, the UCF GPA for University Honors is 3.2, so this creates consistency in academic standards for the Honors College. Second, some students, especially transfer students, may have had challenges earlier in their academic career, but have done well recently. The higher Overall GPA can be a barrier to participation even though the student is now strong in their field of study. We appreciate that HIM is within the major and that departments and programs may have preferences for different standards. We are proposing these new standards as a minimum for admission to Honors in the Major, and will continue to allow department specific requirements.

The UPCC approved these changes.