

AQUINAS SCHOLARS FACULTY BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 29, 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

(Please note: we rearranged the Agenda to let Dan go first!)

1. Dan Meyer and Invitation number thresholds for under-represented students

Please see attached PowerPoint presentation from Dan Meyer. Dan reported that diversifying the University was part of the Strategic Plan generated by Dr. Sullivan. (And he raised the question about whether we as a Board thought that such a goal was something we wanted to pursue for the Honors Program). Dan then walked us through the PowerPoint slides—which are pretty self-explanatory. Two points to keep in mind while reviewing them: First, the numbers are for all of UST (and not just the Honors Program); and Second, “SOC” stands for “Students of Color.” Erica Berglund will get us information about the Honors Program (assuming application data included race, ethnicity, etc. data) with respect to eligibility, acceptances, and actual enrollment.

Part of the subsequent discussion included recommending that we do a better job recruiting SOC who are already here at UST, and trying to figure out both why students who meet requirements are not applying and what would attract them to the Program (This obviously involves the “perks/benefits” associated with being involved in the Honors Program!)

Roxanne suggested that we focus on “pipeline issues,” including: 1. Questions about why students are not applying, or 2. If they are, why they are being rejected; 3. Whether or not students know about the Program; 4. What the value of having more diversity within the Program would be; and 5. How can we improve our recruitment activities.

In the end, we decided that we will need to revisit this topic at our next meeting in February. That meeting will include the following topics: 1. The diversification/application invitation threshold question; 2. The application process and essay changes (James, Peter, and Roxanne had suggestions about how we might tweak this part of the process); and 3. Our recruitment strategies and activities.

2. Honors Seminar Book Scholarships

A proposal has been submitted to the Administration with a request for up to three years of funding the Seminar Book Scholarship. The hope is that in that time we can get some kind of long-term financing in place.

3. Internal Program Review notification

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness informed me that we and they will be conducting an Internal review (with a subsequent “Action Plan”) of the Honors Program some time during the next 6-12 months. Right now, I’m waiting to hear from Wendy Wyatt about whether this Review and “Action Plan” should be done by me, or perhaps my successor. More on this later.

4. Application Essay Review teams

Just a reminder about the teams. Erica also informed us that we will probably not start receiving applications until January. That means the November and December teams will be back in play!

November—James Heyman & Jim Shovein

December—Cathy Craft-Fairchild & Roxanne Prichard

January—Peter Distelzweig & Frank Haug

February—Eric Fort & Jan Frank

March—Miriam Itzkowitz & Ryan Bremner & all hands on deck!

5. Meeting with Dean Waldner

Katelin Kruger and Katie Ray and I met with Lisa Waldner to talk about how we can better organize the Honors Section offerings. Katelin and Katie wrote to various Department Chairs who responded in a positive way to this initiative. We'll see how this works out.

6. Program Perks Update

The Executive Committee of the Student Board and I have a meeting with Rob Riley this afternoon to discuss the perks of the Program. Will have update at our next meeting.

7. Application Essay topic—a change?

See discussion above in #1. I will be contacting James, Peter, and Roxanne about coming up with a few ideas/proposals about the Application Essay.

8. Student Board Meetings—12-1

This is their last regularly scheduled meeting of the semester.

9. Calendar for upcoming meetings—December meeting (?)

I don't see any reason for another meeting this semester. So, our next meeting will be in February. I'll send out a request for times in late January. The agenda will include the items mentioned in the last paragraph of #1 above.

10. Other? Faculty Board Summary opening them issues?

Some Faculty Board members reported issues with opening my Executive Summary Document from our October Meeting. Please let me know if you have any issues with this one! (Of course, how you would know this, if you can't open this, is a great mystery or at least a kind of Zen koan!)