

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM NO 16-1

Date: *April 29, 2015*

Submitted by: *Dr. Michael McGuire, ext. 1342*

SUBJECT: *New Tiered System for Honors Students*

Rationale: A new tiered system for the Washburn University honors program has been a work in progress for several years now. The rationale is simple: allow more students to participate in honors and receive recognition for doing so. A primary goal was to make the program more accessible to students. For example, the new system allows transfer students to join and complete up to Tier 1 for recognition of their efforts. In addition to providing transfer students with the opportunity to participate in honors, the system allows for students to join late (e.g., as juniors) and still complete the lowest tier. Further, some students who begin as freshman may dropout of honors due to their major requirements. The new system, at the very least, would allow them to bow out after tier 1 and still receive recognition for what they have accomplished. Alternatively, it might motivate them to stay involved longer to receive some further recognition. Finally, there is a service component developed by the students in which, by completing a specified number of hours, students would receive the label “with Distinction in Service” in addition to the appropriate tier level (e.g., Honors Associate with Distinction in Service). This tiered system was approved by both Honors Student Council and the curriculum subcommittee of the Honors Advisory Board.

Description:

Curricular

Tier 1: Honors Associate – 12 Hours Honors Credit

Tier 2: Honors Scholar – 18 Hours Honors Credit

Tier 3: Honors Graduate – 24 Hours Honors Credit

- Regardless of tier, students would still be expected to complete an Honors Thesis Project (or similar scholarly project (e.g., scholarly/creative WTE, or capstone project within major)).

Involvement

No distinction with no involvement

With Distinction in Service – 50 Hours involvement (35 in HONORS)

With High Distinction in Service – 100 Hours involvement (75 in HONORS)

Each curricular tier can be combined with any level of distinction and would be noted on the academic transcript upon graduation.

Financial Implications: *Registrar’s time to modify transcript descriptors*

Proposed Effective Date: *Fall 2015*

Request for Action: *Approval by Interdisciplinary Studies/AAC/.FAC/FS/ Gen Fac, etc*

Approved by: *Interdisciplinary Studies on May 4, 2015*

AAC on September 14, 2015

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on September 21, 2015

Attachments Yes No X