

- Motion by Carl Castles, seconded by Jennifer Scroggins to **waive second reading of Items 8 and 8.a.**

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Carl Castles, seconded by Alan Christensen to **forward Items 8 and 8.a to the Academic Senate as consent items.**

- Motion carried.

Item 13 Interdisciplinary Honors Minor. New program.

- Motion by Brian Gurney, seconded by Ying Wang to **approve Item 13 on first reading.**

David Craig, Director of the Honors Program, stated that the Honors Program has had 56 graduates since its beginning in 2001. Those students took 7 credits of honors courses to receive that designation as they graduated. They are now at 90 students, and their goal is 130. The Honors Council is seeking to bring rigor to the program, as well as better publicize the Honors program to both new students as well as the faculty and staff of MSUB. Honors minors are comparatively rare in this country, and this minor will do two things: give students a minor, which they need, and bring coherence and rigor to the Honors program. Dr. Craig noted that the typical Honors student at MSUB will not continue on to graduate school, so the minor and the Honors program includes problem solving skills and a capstone where students work as a team on a community problem.

Dr. Craig stated that the program is basically two required HONR courses for a total of 6 credits (3 of which can be counted in Gen Ed) and 15 credits of Honors electives. Students have two options for the Honors elective courses: seminars offered under the HONR rubric and a few other rubrics, or setting up an Honors Contract in a Gen Ed or other course. This contract ensures Honors credit earned for extra work beyond what the course requires of non-honors students. In effect, it's a lower-level course with upper-level work, though the lower-level number will still be listed on students' transcripts. Nine of the 15 Honors elective credits must be at 300-level or above. The Honors Minor students are also required to put together a portfolio in which students document their experiences in the program—to answer the question of how the program added value to their college career. Students must apply to get into the Honors program.

- Motion carried.

- Motion by Jennifer Scroggins, seconded by Brian Gurney to **waive second reading of Item 13.**

- Motion carried with 2 opposed.

It was noted that a significant faculty issue may arise as the Honors program grows. The Honors Contracts necessary for the program could create an overburden for faculty. It was also noted that the double-dipping of so many credits in both the Minor and General

Education is of concern. Dr. Craig noted that many students take the Honors Gen Ed courses *in addition* to the courses they have already taken to fulfill the Gen Ed requirements. It was agreed that these concerns should be brought to the Senate representatives by the UCC members.

- Motion by Brian Gurney, seconded by Jennifer Scroggins to **forward Item 13 to the Academic Senate as a consideration item.**

- Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

rjrm