

To: Maggi Murdock, Paula Lutz, Joe Steiner, Susan Frye, Donna Brown, Indy Burke, Steve Bialostok, Jennifer Mayer, Danielle Cover, Ruben Gamboa, Stan DeVore

From: David L. Jones, Vice President

Re: Charge for the Honors Program Review Committee

Date: March 19, 2015

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you so much for being willing to devote your time and expertise to the review of the University of Wyoming's Honors Program. The Honors Program has a long and storied history at UW, and commitment to the program from students, faculty, staff, and the administration remains strong. The external review conducted by Dr. James McKusick and Dr. Rosalie Otero in the fall of 2014 has raised critical questions about the program. I hope you will aid me in providing UW-appropriate consideration of and answers to those questions.

During your work, which may last into the fall semester, I would like you to accomplish these tasks:

- Review the report by Drs. McKusick and Otero. This may involve direct consultation with both reviewers and with the past and current directors of the Honors Program.
- Gather additional information and perspectives from important stakeholders, including (but not necessarily limited to) Honors students, Honors faculty, deans, directors, alumni, the Foundation, Faculty Senate, Admissions, and the Wyoming community colleges.
- Gather additional information about Honors Programs from around the country, including recommendations supported by the National Collegiate Honors Council.
- Recommend models for the UW Honors Program that are appropriate for the university and its mission, attractive to future students and faculty members, and sustainable. The models should include admissions standards, program size, program curricula, instructional resources, and administrative/advising resources. The models should also attempt to address the concerns of both the external review and institutional constituencies.

- Recommend models for effective selection and mentoring of UW candidates for national awards such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, and Goldwater fellowships.
- Review the relationship between the Honors Program and the High School Institute and provide recommendations about that relationship, if necessary.

Given the limited resources of UW, a long-term plan for the costs and resources related to the Honors Program and its related activities should be part of your final proposal.

While I know committee work is an additional duty for you all, I urge you to take the time you need to complete your deliberations. The future of UW's Honors Program is too important to be considered in haste, and it is essential the UW community – on the Laramie campus and statewide – have an opportunity to participate in these discussions and commit themselves to the long-term excellence of the Honors Program. My staff and I are available to aid you in any way you deem useful or appropriate. Please know I am supremely grateful for your service.

Sincerely,

David L. Jones

Cc: Alyson Hagy
Tami Benham-Deal
Ann Hild
Susan Aronstein
Sara Axelson
Shelley Dodd