

To: Leigh Graziano, Faculty Senate President  
From: Gavin Keulks, Honors Director (and Spring Term Honors Committee Chair)  
Date: June 14, 2021  
RE: End of Year Committee Summary

I am submitting this review as temporary chair of the Honors Committee. Jaime Cloud was our official chair; however, she took sabbatical during Spring Term, and the Honors Committee elected me to replace her, as that would minimize any additional work for members during a hopelessly stressful year. It's our understanding Jaime will return as chair in the fall.

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Our committee membership this year was affected by the pandemic and also Article 15. Our committee structure and elected personnel for 2020-21 included:

**College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Seats (4)**, one each from the Divisions of Creative Arts, Humanities, Natural Science & Math, and Social Science:

- Creative Arts: Vacant due to pandemic/will elect in fall 2021
- Humanities: Dr. Lars Soderlund, Department of English Studies
- Natural Science & Math: Dr. Karen Haberman, Department of Biology
- Social Science: Dr. Sriram Khe (recused himself, understandably, after article 15)

**College of Education Seats (2)**, one from the Division of Education & Leadership and one from either the Division of Health & Exercise Science or the Division of Deaf Studies & Professional Studies:

- Division of Education & Leadership: Dr. Dana Ulveland
- Division of Deaf Studies & Professional Studies: Prof. Erin Trine

**Optional Seats (0-2)**, chosen solely from the Divisions of Behavioral Sciences; Business & Economics; Computer Science; or the Library:

- Dr. Jaime M. Cloud: Department of Psychological Sciences / Behavioral Sciences — Committee Chair (on sabbatical spring 2021)
- Dr. Breeann Flesch: Computer Science Division

**Honors Program Director:** Dr. Gavin Keulks, Department of English Studies (Committee Chair spring 2021)

**WOU Honors Student Representatives**

- Sophomore Class Representative: Vacant due to pandemic/will elect fall 2021
- Junior Class Representative: Melina Mullin
- Senior Class Representative: N.J. Johnson
- Honors Program Specialist (and honors senior): Paige Smith

Our major Fall term work included:

- Refining the substitution rules for the new honors curriculum, launched in fall 2020
- Soliciting and reviewing proposals for honors core and honors colloquia and exploratory courses. The Honors Director then followed up with faculty to create the 2021-22 honors schedule.
- Discussing assessment, program outcomes, etc.

Our major Winter term work included:

- Reviewing 25 honors thesis proposals and providing both quantitative scores and qualitative comments
- Preliminary voting on the finalists for the annual Harding Grant, an endowed Honors Program award
- Updates from Honors Director about scheduling revisions/upheavals due to online delivery/faculty availability.

Our major Spring term work included:

- Selecting the Harding Grant winner for 2021. Honors Director then finalized the award disbursement with the WOU Foundation.
- Discussing diversity and inclusion in Honors
- Proposing (to the FS Gen Ed committee) an articulation between Honors and General Education courses for students who drop Honors and therefore must transition to the non-honors Gen Ed. With only a single exception, all Honors Committee recommendations were adopted by the Gen Ed Committee.

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All in all, we look forward to putting 2020-21 behind us and returning to some semblance of normal in the upcoming year.