

Florida Atlantic University  
University Honors Council  
Minutes  
21 April 2014  
GS 214 B / HC 130

Present: Mary Ann Gosser (Chair); Cynthia Blum; Ken Dawson-Scully; Charles Dukes; Kimberly Dunn; William Kalies; Christopher Strain; Emmanouil Vermisso; Ali Zilouchian, Ed Pratt

Meeting was called to order at 2 pm

- 1) Minutes were approved with one correction (March and not February in the title).
- 2) The committee preferred cords to braids as recognition items for the Honors in the Major students. The silver/white/blue cord was preferred over the simple silver one.

After some discussion the committee voted unanimously to make the following amendments to Section 4 Commencement Distinction for Honors Graduates in the “Florida Atlantic University Honors Administrative Manual”:

**First change voted on (original text):**

2. Upper-division honors program: ~~braids (worn over the left shoulder)~~

**Proposed change:**

2. Upper-division honors program: silver/white/blue double cord (worn over the neck)

**Second change voted on (original text):**

1. an FAU ~~silver shoulder braid. (These braids must be acquired by the college offering the degree)~~

**Proposed change:**

1. an FAU silver/white/blue double cord. (These cords will be acquired by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.)

Both of these proposals will be sent forward to the UUPC.

3) We also discussed the fact that the Chair has stoles for those who complete both the University Honors Program and an Honors in the Major program. Further discussions were held regarding templates for certificates (that are not required for the programs to give, but we will make them available to those who wish to have models). Members of the UHC volunteered to send more templates, and the committee can review them at our next meeting.

4) The committee also discussed the proposal on students who do not complete their capstone project. The proposal is to be added to the end of section 2 of the “Florida Atlantic University Honors Curriculum Manual” which had been tabled at our last meeting and now Dean Pratt was able to answer the questions the committee had.

**The committee voted unanimously to accept the following proposal:**

If a student is unable to complete the thesis for an honors program or if the student will not earn the minimum grade required for the honors program, the faculty mentor may request that the student's thesis credits be converted to either elective credits or Pass/Fail DIS credits [to be renamed "Research and Inquiry in (name of program)] with no more than the maximum allowed by the department or program. The request for the course change must be approved by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies (or, in the case of students at the Honors College, by the Dean of the Honors College), before submission to the University Registrar.

For Honors College students, the "Thesis Requirement Waived" notation would go on the transcript.

The Chair of the UHC will send it to the Registrars for their comments.

5) The committee discussed an appeal process involving appeals in Honors Compact courses as per Section 5, item 9 under "Procedures."

**Original text:**

~~9. Any appeals involving an honors compact should be directed to the chair of the University Honors Council who will consult with the UHC before acting on the appeal. Normal university deadlines for all grade changes still apply.~~

**Proposed change:**

9. Any appeals involving an honors compact should follow the appeals procedure (as detailed in the Code of Academic Integrity) although the Chair of the University Honors Council may be consulted during the process. Normal university deadlines for all grade changes still apply.

6) Announcements:

- a) Dr. Cynthia Blum (Nursing) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor  
She also received an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award
- b) Dr. Emmanouil Vermisso (Architecture, DSI) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor

7) Other Business:

- a) Dr. Chris Strain (Honors) will be on sabbatical leave spring 2015
- b) Dr. William Kalies (Mathematics/Science) will be on sabbatical leave spring 2015

Both indicated that they would be willing to serve fall 2014.

The Chair of the UHC will send a request to the Deans of the respective colleges so that they may designate representatives.

8) Meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ann Gosser