

# UHP NEWS



MSUB Honors Program

March 2015

## HONORS SCHOLARSHIPS! DEADLINE: MARCH 13TH

Apologies, Gang (aka Fellow Honors Programmers)—

Except at the spring orientation, I haven't given an update since last semester. Some explanation of my tardiness later, but for now let me plunge right into the update for much has happened and is happening:

- **Spring Advising**—We will have two advising sessions for preregistration: Monday from 11:30-1:30 in the Missouri Room (pizza) and Tuesday from 7:30-9:00 in Stingers (breakfasty stuff). We will have our course line-up ready for then.
- **Priority Registration**—Many honors programs offer priority registration for honors students. We have begun exploring this possibility for MSUB, and I am cautiously optimistic that we will have it in place for next fall's registration period.
- **Survey Results**—You will see the results of the survey many of you participated in later in the newsletter. We have already shared them with the Honors Council, and we are taking what we learned into account as we move ahead.
- **Student Representation in Decision Making**—As you recall, one of our goals has been to get more student involvement in UHP decision making. Two students, Anna Claypool and Conner Oltrogge, have joined the Honors Council, and we expect to have a 5-person student Advisory Committee set next week.
- **Honors Club**—One of the results of the spring orientation is the first steps to reviving the Honors Club. The club is rebuilding along three fronts: social, academic support, and community involvement. The first social activity planned is a game night. The academic support is being built around the idea that UHP students can both offer tutoring help and need tutoring assistance. In terms of service, we were asked if we wanted to sponsor one of the Service Saturdays, most likely the one for April 11.
- **New Website**—One of our goals for the year is to build knowledge about and the reputation of the UHP—or to use terminology from business, to build brand identity. The redesigned website is one of the means toward this end. As it stands, the website is just a starting point. We want to have more photos and content and invite your help if have ideas or instances for either.
- **About This Falling Behind (Part I)**—You have probably heard about MSUB's serious budget problems. At the beginning of the semester, I was involved in hours of meetings about the problems, solutions to them, and management of their effects. While there have been some effects on the UHP, the effects can be managed, and the UHP has emerged in strong shape. We had a 12% cut in our budget, but, even with this cut, we will be able to do all the same things in the next few years that we have done this year. Similarly, although 3 of the projected courses for the fall have been cut largely as a result of the budgetary effects on departments, we have already replaced 2 of those courses, and I expect that we will have 2 more new courses ready when registration opens.
- **UHP Membership**—We are on pace to have 15 entering first-year students for the fall and hope to have 20. Together with our spring nomination call, we want to begin the year with 85-to-90 UHP students, by far the most ever.

Have you met  
with Dr. Craig  
this semester?

- **Survey Results**—You will see some of the results of the survey many of you participated in later in the newsletter, most notably those about the proposed honors minor and the 5-course graduation proposal. We have already shared the survey results with the Honors Council, and we are taking what we learned into account as we move ahead. Both proposals are moving ahead through the Honors Council and MSUB channels. I hope that both will be in place next year.
  - **Semesterly Appointment Reminders**—The appointment is designed to create relationships necessary for the program and me to help each of you take maximum advantage of your MSUB years. For example, this semester as a result of appointments, I have worked on arranging a semester abroad experience, facilitating a research scholarship, working on several internship possibilities, and responding to a number of serious personal or academic problems or obstacles.
  - **The Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference**—The UHP is again co-sponsoring this event. Last year 56 MSUB students participated, and we hope to exceed that number this year. The deadline for proposals is Friday, March 20.
  - **Falling Behind (Part II)** —In early February, my mother's Alzheimer's Disease turned from a debilitating memory problem into the rapid physical decline that led to her death. She was a dedicated and gifted teacher, and many of my attitudes toward teaching and students originated with her.
- I hope to see you at one of the advising sessions, for a semesterly appointment, or just for a simple drop by the office. Of course, if you have questions--and there certainly may be some--given the number of items in this update, just let me know.

Taking a cue from this week's weather, springtime good wishes to all,  
DC

SERVICE  
SATURDAY

**March 14**  
**9:30 AM**

Meet and depart from  
SUB Atrium

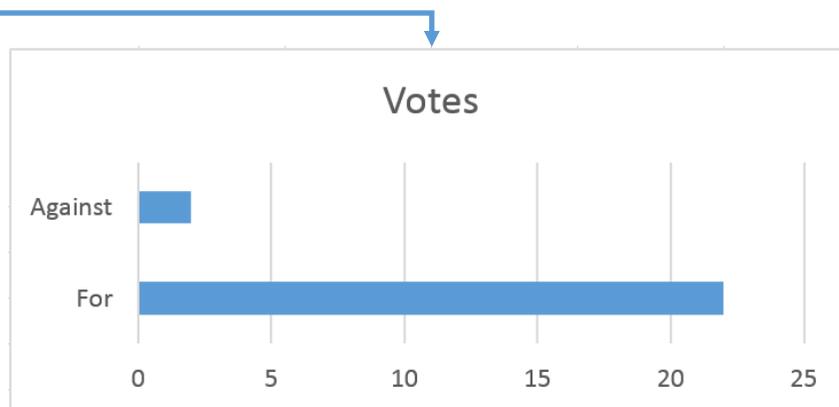
~coffee and treats  
provided~

## Survey Results

### Honors Minor

**WORDING FROM THE SURVEY:** In order to better serve our population, the Honors Council has developed a plan for an Honors Minor. This would appeal to our students who are in programs that require a minor or who are looking to apply to Grad School or who might want an extra addition to their resumes. The UHP Interdisciplinary Minor would consist of 21 credits, including HONR 111, Perspectives and Understanding, and HONR 499, Honors Capstone or a departmental thesis or capstone course. At least 9 of the credits must be at the 300 level or higher. In addition to completing the minor courses, students work with their honors advisor to compile a minor portfolio that represents their learning experience in the minor.

HOW YOU  
VOTED



# Survey Results (Honors Minor cont.)

## YOUR CONCERNS ANSWERED:

1. **“I do not have a clear understanding. Would this be required by all honors students?”**

▶ This will not be a requirement for all UHP students, but an extra option for students who might not join the program otherwise.

2. **“I’m confused, I thought the requirement for Honors was already 21 credits.”**

▶ Yes, and the honors minor would have the same requirement with a few added stipulations. You can still be a University Honors Scholar without having to apply for an Honors Minor. It’s an optional track for those who might need it.

3. **“I honestly don’t see it as needed or not, but at least by adding it, students have the option.”**

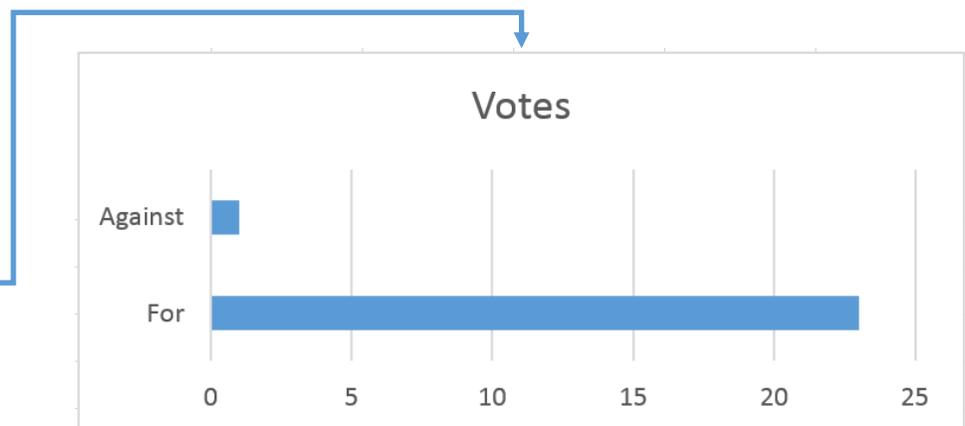
▶ Our hope is that some students (specifically those whose major requires a minor or who are looking to graduate school) will find this option appealing. For example, a student might not have the time to get a major, a minor, and be part of the UHP, but if we offer the honors minor they could join the program without feeling overwhelmed. The designation and required coursework path for a minor also emphasize the coherent curriculum design that we are building.



## Graduation Options for Late Arrivals

**WORDING FROM THE SURVEY:** For students who enter the program with junior standing, we are proposing a 15 credit hour requirement and designation as a UHP Graduates rather than UHP Scholars. This approach will help to alleviate the problem of talented nominated students who don’t join the program because they can’t be recognized at graduation. We have tentatively agreed to a conversion mechanism for one past course.

### HOW YOU VOTED



# Survey Results (5 credits cont.)

## YOUR CONCERNS ANSWERED:

1. "As long as the size of the UHP remains an issue, I think this will help. However, I am concerned that this may devalue the achievements of those who put in the effort to achieve the full 21 credits."

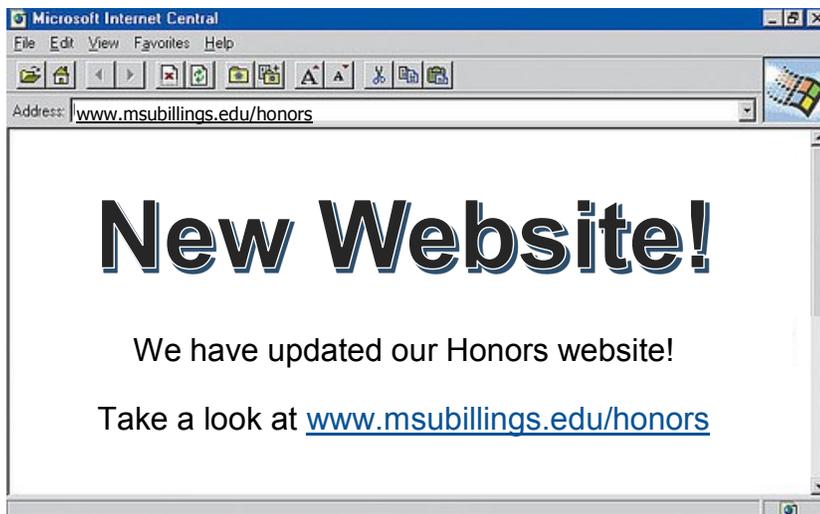
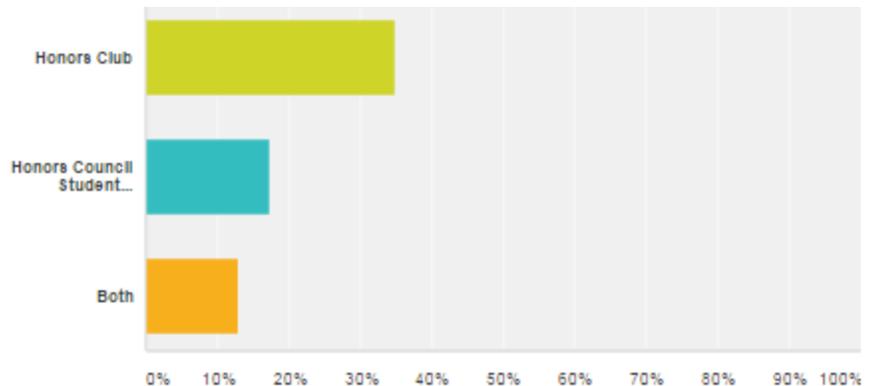
▶ This was our concern as well, and we have thought of a few ways to keep this as a way to help students instead of some finding it as a loophole to get around honors coursework. We will be monitoring the results of this change to see if it coincides with the most important part of the MSUB mission, i.e. creating pathways for the intellectual and personal excellence of MSUB students.

2. "A lot of students don't know about the program until later in their college career. However, I believe this should be more temporary, until the program gains more attention and becomes greater."

▶ We agree entirely. We will be working with the Council and our Student Representatives to come up with definite specifications for when and how we will be ending this 15-credit option.

**A BIG THANKS TO  
THOSE OF YOU WHO  
VOLUNTEERED FOR  
HONORS CLUB AND  
STUDENT ADVISOR  
POSITIONS!**

Would you be interested in being part of the  
Honors Club or becoming an Honors  
Council Student Representative?



**CHECK BACK NEXT  
NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE REST OF  
THE SURVEY  
RESULTS!**