



Faculty Senate
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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To: Provost and Vice Chancellor Elisha Baker,
University of Alaska Anchorage

Fr: Kimberly Swiantek,
UAA Governance Office

Re: Priority Registration for the Honors College

On March 7th, 2014 the Faculty Senate approved to the following motion brought forward by the Undergraduate Academic Board (UAB):

Motion: The UAB moves to extend the current priority registration for the Honors College for the Fall 2014 semester.

Please see the attached document for more information.

If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

Provost

Approved Disapproved

Comments:

DocuSigned by:
Elisha "Bear" Baker
64565975F771405...

April 16, 2014

Elisha Baker, Provost and Vice Chancellor

Date

Chancellor

Approved Disapproved

Comments:

DocuSigned by:
Tom Case
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April 16, 2014

Tom Case, Chancellor



Enrollment Services
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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Anchorage, Alaska 99514-1629
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TO: Undergraduate Academic Board (UAB)

FROM: Eric R. Pedersen, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services

DATE: February 10, 2014

RE: Priority Registration Exception for University Honors College

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'E. Pedersen', located to the right of the 'FROM' line.

On February 14, 2011, UAB voted to approve the current priority registration system that we have in place. The approval established a clear hierarchy for registration based on a student's class standing. The current model emerged from lengthy UAB discussion and included key stakeholder input, and therefore I feel it is appropriate for UAB to determine any permanent changes to the model.

After the establishment of the priority registration policy the Honors College and Student Affairs administration agreed to a trial in which honors college student could register one business day prior to official opening of the priority registration schedule. The Honors College tightly maintains the qualifications for a student to qualify for this special priority. This trial period was granted with the expectation that a formal proposal would come before UAB and Faculty Senate for formal approval. After spring semester 2014 priority registration the Honors College was informed that their students would not be afforded this benefit for fall 2014 priority registration without expressed consent of UAB.

I have asked University Honors College leadership to bring before you a request to approve early registration for Honors College students. Enrollment Services supports early registration as a reasonable and tangible benefit for a student participating in the Honors College. The Honors College will further make the case for this benefit to their students.



UAA
University Honors College
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

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February 6, 2014

To: Undergraduate Academic Board
From: Maureen O'Malley, Co-Chair, University Honors College Council
Robert Lang, Co-Chair, University Honors College Council, Honors Faculty
Re: University Honors College Priority Registration

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "maureen".

The University Honors College (UHC) is seeking renewed and permanent approval of priority registration for UHC academic program students. Based upon national best practices, priority registration offers an important benefit to these students in support of their success as students. Their accomplishments reflect positively on UAA as an institution committed to providing a robust and distinctive educational experience.

Background

The UHC offers smaller, in-depth seminar courses, advising, mentoring, as well as opportunities for guided individual research and community involvement. Students receive an interdisciplinary educational experience that fosters scholarship and creative innovation as strong students in Colleges throughout UAA meet their academic potential.

According to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) (2010, 2011), a critical measure of program quality is the accomplishments of its students; the accomplishments of UHC students are impressive. A recent survey of students admitted to any one of the UHC programs found that most of the students were receiving merit awards and that the majority were UA scholars (Lazell, 2011). During the five year period from AY 2008 to AY 2012, students received an array of local and international awards including prestigious scholarships such as Marshall, Fulbright, Truman, and Goldwater awards. Graduates of the Core Seminar Program are enrolled in the most competitive professional and graduate programs (Masters and Doctoral) in the nation including Harvard Law School, Johns Hopkins University, Dartmouth University, WWAMI Medical School, UCLA, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Academic distinction is characteristic of students admitted and completing the Core Seminar Program.

The Honors program develops leaders in their respective fields of study, who are engaged locally, nationally and globally at this critical point for UAA. UHC works with all colleges to enable students to graduate with distinction and reach their full potential. Participation in an Honors College affords a student more opportunities for research, internships, scholarships, and faculty mentoring, all of which enhance an applicant's resume and their potential for success.

Honors students often take on greater leadership roles across the university and have additional research and service obligations. In fact, honors students tend to be more widely involved across campus than their peers in the general population. These activities add to the difficulty they often have scheduling their courses in a reasonable way.

Priority registration for an honors student cohort is a national best practice

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), deems priority registration as a basic characteristic and a best practice for Honors programs. Priority registration has in fact become so typical a policy for honors programs at universities across the nation that the National Collegiate Honors Council has added priority registration to its list of “Basic Characteristics of a Fully Developed Honors Program,” benchmarks for honors programs nationwide: “The program provides priority enrollment for active honors students in recognition of scheduling difficulties caused by the need to satisfy both honors and major program(s) requirements” (NCHC, 2010).

In their own words

The 2009 University Honors Student Advisory Board proposed priority registration to the dean of the University Honors College. Here in their own words are points that they made:

“Honors students are inclined to take challenging classes, which often require approval. Priority registration would enable us to get approved/register for these classes on time, instead of getting waitlisted.”

“The Honors College is composed of motivated and ambitious students who tend to do well in classes. We are more likely to succeed in our academic endeavors. Priority registration would greatly facilitate these endeavors, especially because we'd be able to take our classes on schedule.”

“Honors students also have full schedules. Many of us participate in sports, community service, and various extracurricular activities. Priority registration would allow us to coordinate our classes with everything else.”

Conclusion

The University Honors College academic program plays a central role in promoting an honors student’s intellectual and personal development through innovative course work and active learning. The program also enhances the reputation and reach of UAA in the state and local communities through mentored community involvement and research. Priority registration is a national best practice because it fosters student success in the honors cohort. Priority registration provides something to honors students that they understand to be invaluable to the successful completion of their degrees. Priority registration advances all of the above with essentially no cost to the university.

We request that the Undergraduate Academic Board grant priority registration for University Honors College academic program students who are in good standing.