

# Memo

To: Stacey Adams  
Jeffrie Ahmad  
Rae Agahari  
Rosa Fuller  
Susan Knapp  
From: Karen Lubick  
Chair, Honors Transfer Alliance Program

Kathy Moore  
Dr. Tom O'Neil  
Elizabeth Soos  
Judy Sullivan

Date: November 21, 2008

Re: November 24, 2008 – Honors Committee Meeting

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1. Announcements from the Coordinator – Karen Lubick
2. Honors Course Proposals
  - English 102 – J. Ahmad
  - History 107H – K. Shafer (attachment)
3. Other

The next meeting of the Honors Committee is scheduled for  
Monday, February 23, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Room A-141.



**ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**HONORS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**November 24, 2008**

**Members Present**

Karen Lubick	Jeffrie Ahmad
Rae Agahari	Susan Knapp
Rosa Fuller	Judy Sullivan

**Absent Members**

Stacey Adams  
Kathy Moore  
Dr. Tom O' Neil  
Elizabeth Soos

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- Ms. Karen Lubick, Honors Program Coordinator, called the Honors Committee meeting to order at 2:47 p.m.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COORDINATOR**

- Ms. Lubick changed the agenda items as follows: due to the absence of Ms. Soos, she will update the committee on Alpha Iota. Ms. Lubick wished to thank everyone for attending the Alpha Iota Ball and stated that it was a wonderful event. The goal of \$1500 had initially been difficult to meet, but after feeding the 14 musicians, and paying for all the expenses, it looks like the honors club cleared about \$1500 for scholarships. A jewelry party is planned on December 1 at Ms. Lubick's house, and flyers are available. Twenty five percent of the proceeds will be given to Alpha Iota. A holiday party is also being planned. It will be on December 19 in the board room. Members are invited. The club is thinking about adopting a family as a charitable activity.
- Susan Knapp attended the UCLA TAP Conference. They updated the Certification form (streamlined it really) which will make it much easier for students to use. It focuses mainly on the honors classes and not on counseling, college records, etc. The due date is now March 13 instead of February, which had been the usual. Ms. Knapp will be offering counseling appointments to honors students before the Spring semester commences.

**3. HONORS COURSE PROPOSALS**

- **English 226H** (Angela Koritsoglou - not present) Ms. Lubick gave a very detailed description of this course which deals with the Victorian era. This class will feature looking at different critical approaches to literature. Ms. Lubick explained briefly some of the approaches such as feminist and biographical theory. Students are encouraged to use either several or just one lens when they are writing their paper versus a regular class where they would do just an overall interpretation. This is what makes it an honors class. The members of the committee read over the proposal overview and found it to be very exciting. A discussion ensued about how to grade participation. Grading will be a subjective issue with the instructor as no participation by a student may lower the grade whereas extreme participation may bring their grade up. She has not included the SLO and that is something the committee will recommend she do. There were

some minor clarifications needed on the use of the work “might” and on references to “historical.” The committee members asked for clarification. Ms. Lubick will check with her to get clarification. The class sounds exciting with a lot of energy. A question came up about the grading of an honors class. Should be it higher than 70%? Basically, it is designed to not be harder, just more enriching. The committee members took a verbal vote and all are in agreement to approve this class.

- **History 107H** (Ken Shafer - not present) The committee followed up on this item from the last meeting. It was evident that there was missing information on his honors course proposal for History 107H. As we review it today, it appears that the second page has been improved. The explanation of supplemental reading material is clear and he has detailed information about field trips and supplemental activities during Black History Month, but the first page is still lacking. There is no topic list or statement of lecture topics. This is his first time teaching an honors course but he has taught HIST 107 before, and he is currently in his second year of tenure. Ms. Lubick will speak with Mr. Shafer directly and observe his class—Dean O’Neil does not need to address the minor issues needing clarification. Ms. Lubick received a glowing review from a previous student on Mr. Shafer. It is the consensus of the committee that they could still not formally approve this course proposal at the meeting today, but that the course will go forward in Spring as long as Ms. Lubick and Dean O’Neil can work with the instructor to ensure that our comments are addressed. We will use email to work with Mr. Shafer on the proposal.

#### 4. **OTHER**

- **Topic for next February’s meeting** – Ms. Lubick would like to find creative ways to expand the honors program. We need more classes but the administration will be reluctant to do so because of the budget issue. The divisions may be reluctant also because we would be taking away seats from the regular classes and that impacts that same budget issues. Many four year students will be coming to the community colleges due to the budget impacts (cutting numbers who can register) and they will be looking for honors classes. Many students who will be coming directly from high school with a strong 4.0 GPA and can’t get into a four year will also be coming here looking for honors. Class size was discussed as a possible solution but we do not want to compromise our small class size by going beyond 21. The committee feels it is best to retain the cap at 15 and let instructors add crashers up to 21 at their discretion. Another possibility is the half honors, half traditional course. This would have to be very carefully crafted and must come from the proposing faculty member due to the potential problem scenarios. Our current goal is to provide 8-10 courses each semester. Susan asked if we could increase the number of diversity offerings, and Ms. Lubick made a list of what courses might potentially be added, noting that we already typically have 1-2 per year.

#### 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Honors Committee meeting at 2:50 p.m. Motion carried.