



Temple University
College of Liberal Arts
Department of History

9th Floor Gladfelter Hall
1115 W. Berks Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

May 1, 2024

Faculty Senate
University Honors Oversight Committee

Annual Report to the Faculty Senate for Academic Year 2023-24

[Submitted by Rita Krueger, Chair of the University Honors Oversight Committee]

Charge:

The University Honors Oversight Committee serves as a liaison between the Honors Program and the Faculty Senate; provides advice on policy, curricula, planning, development and programming; elicits support from across the academic community for Honors initiatives; encourages cross-disciplinary scholarly pursuits; and serves in consultative, interpretive and advocacy roles in exchanges with constituents across Temple's campuses and the wider community.

1. Current Honors Oversight Committee membership:

Rita Krueger (Chair), CLA, rita.krueger@temple.edu
Tonia Hsieh, CST, tonia.hsieh@temple.edu
David Liberles, CST, david.liberles@temple.edu
Robert Rabiee, CLA, robert.rabiee@temple.edu
Ann Valentine, CST, ann.valentine@temple.edu
Jennifer Johnson, ED/Hum, jmjohnson@temple.edu
Lynne Andersson, FSB, lynne.andersson@temple.edu
Jane Evans, ART, jane.evans@temple.edu
Amanda Neuber, Honors Program Director, amanda@temple.edu
Bryant Simon, Honors Program Academic Chair, bryant.simon@temple.edu

2. Committee changes:

There were no structural changes to the committee and we did not form any subcommittees. Emily Moerer, Assoc V. Provost and Josh Pongan (CLA) were not part of AY 2023-24 meetings.

3. Meetings:

During AY 2023-24, the Committee met three times per semester on the following days:

September 20, 2023
October 25, 2023
November 29, 2023
February 12, 2024
March 11, 2024
April 22, 2024

4. Issues addressed by the committee and actions taken:

- The Honors Director and Academic Chair updated the Committee on a number of initiatives and efforts that emphasize the important role the Honors Program has in recruiting to Temple and graduating high achieving students from all backgrounds. The Honors Program continues to prioritize its basic motto of Temple First, working to craft programs that support better outcomes in and out of the classroom in Honors and across the university. The success of the Honors program clearly raises Temple's regional, national, and international profile.
- The Committee received updates on the success of the new Mérida program, which allows students to fulfill one of their Intellectual Heritage requirements or register for an Honors History course on the legacies of colonialism in the Yucatán. This program will run a second time with increased enrollment this summer.
- The Committee discussed ways to encourage deep learning and engagement for both honors and non-honors students. The Challenge by Choice program encourages students to explore new (and potentially difficult) areas of inquiry and study. Honors has had significant success in encouraging students to do higher level research and write theses. The Committee discussed possible models for one-book/one-text courses that would allow students to do intensive work with a singular focus.
- The Honors Oversight Committee had many discussions about the approval and implementation of new interdisciplinary minors in Honors. The university's budgetary model has made intercollegiate cooperation significantly more difficult. However, because there are honors students in every college, the Honors Program is at its core an interdisciplinary endeavor. The staff have worked over the last year to heighten that quality and make it part of curricular offerings. This year, the Honors Social Justice minor, which requires students to take classes across different colleges, was approved and will be in place for the next academic year. This is the first fully interdisciplinary minor not housed in a department. There were continued discussions about the possibility of partnering with the Science, Technology and Society interdisciplinary group on a similar program, as well as other similar potential interdisciplinary topics. The Committee discussed ways of supporting this interdisciplinary/inter-collegiate work as fundamental to the university's strategic goals, recognizing the way that Honors is an incubator of an interdisciplinary university curriculum.
- There were repeated Committee discussions related to strengthening the Honors Program and the ways that Honors could be better supported by Colleges and the University overall. Honors exists outside the regular college structure. As a result, the uncertain and unstable nature of its course offerings and faculty participation remains an obstacle. The university's current budgetary challenges have deepened this problem, but the Committee discussed the ways the Honors Program might be supported by more direction from the Provost to institutionalize and regularize expectations for colleges' Honors course offerings. There were also discussions about the need to raise awareness in different colleges and departments about what Honors does and the benefits it brings to the university, but also about some of the hurdles the Honors Program faces, including the recruitment of faculty from under-represented colleges and departments. To partly address this, an initiative supported by the committee is the creation of affiliated Honors faculty, who would provide more stability by offering courses over multiple semesters and serving as mentors for students.

5. Name/Contact info of chair for 2024-25 academic year:

Rita Krueger, CLA, rita.krueger@temple.edu