



Temple University
College of Liberal Arts
Department of History

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

May 15, 2026

Faculty Senate University Honors Oversight Committee

Annual Report to the Faculty Senate for Academic Year 2025-26

[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 (2nd term ends 2028)
Tonia Hsieh, CST, tonia.hsieh@temple.edu (term ended 2026)
Robert Rabiee, CLA, robert.rabiee@temple.edu (2nd term ends 2028)
Ann Valentine, CST, ann.valentine@temple.edu (2nd term ends 2028)
Jennifer Johnson, ED/Hum, jmjohnson@temple.edu (appointed)
Lynne Andersson, FSB, lynne.andersson@temple.edu (2nd term ends 2029)
Micah Magee, TFMA, micah.magee@temple.edu (1st term ends 2028)
Joy Pierce, Klein, joy.pierce2@temple.edu (appointed)
Iyad Obeid, Engineering, iyad.obeid@temple.edu (appointed)
Steph DeLane Doktor, Boyer, stephanie.doktor@temple.edu (appointed)

Ex-officio:

Amanda Neuber, Honors Program Director, amanda@temple.edu
Bryant Simon, Honors Program Academic Chair, bryant.simon@temple.edu

2. Committee changes:

Because we intended to do an extensive curriculum review, we agreed with the Honors staff to add some faculty from colleges under-represented on the committee. We formed subcommittees for this task, which included reviewing the overall curriculum, assessing the use and impact of Honors contracts for non-Honors courses, and planning for faculty development and pedagogy in Honors that reflects Honors priorities.

3. Meetings:

During AY 2025-26, the Committee met on the following days:

September 19, 2025

October 16, 2025

November (variable meetings for curriculum review subcommittees)

February 5, 2026

March 19, 2026

April 16, 2026

These meetings were held on Zoom, except for the March 19 meeting, which took place in the Honors Program. There was an additional meeting on Zoom in January to decide on the final slate of the second group of Affiliated Faculty.

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. Shifts in the admissions and financial aid approach of the university more broadly made recruitment to Honors more challenging these past couple of year. However, the success of the Honors program in recruitment, programming, and student outcomes clearly raises Temple's regional, national, and international reputation.
- The Committee continued to discuss ways to encourage deep learning and engagement for both honors and non-honors students and this was a fundamental part of our discussions about curriculum.
- The HOC received updates on the potential planning to transition Honors from a program to a College. This has long been under discussion and had earlier received strong support from the Provost's Office, though most of our discussions took place before the announcement of the new Sullivan Honors College. With that announcement, the planning and discussions have entered a new phase.
- The curriculum review described above was to evaluate where the Honors Program is currently, assess what was effective and might need attention, and think about the barriers to participation from different sectors of the university community. Subcommittees were tasked with assessing the overall honors curriculum, contracts, and pedagogy. The curriculum subcommittee examined honors requirements, discussed experiential learning, honors senior projects, mentoring, and other issues. The contracts committee met with Honors Forum to talk to students about their experiences with contracts. We also evaluated the use of contracts over several years. The discussions are on-going, but contracts remain simultaneously problematic and necessary.
- The HOC continued to serve as the application review committee for those seeking appointment as Honors Affiliated Faculty. In December, the Committee evaluated the applications and created a short list and then got additional feedback from Honors to finalize the second group of four Honors faculty. The Committee was particularly attuned to bringing in faculty to Honors from under-represented colleges and ensuring that there was diverse representation in fields and specializations.
- We continued to discuss the budgetary hurdles the Honors Program faces, which we are hoping the Sullivan Honors College and on going potential for development will begin to address.

5. Name/Contact info of chair for 2026-7 academic year:

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