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## Update on Honors College Strategic Plan

Michelle Haberland

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#### SHORT TITLE

(Please provide a short descriptive title that would be suitable for inclusion in the Senate Agenda.)

Update on Honors College Strategic Plan

#### SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION:

(Please state the nature of your request as concisely as possible.)

The Honors Council would like to provide an update to the Faculty Senate about the development of the proposal to transition the University Honors Program into an Honors College.


#### RATIONALE(s):


(Please explain why this issue is one of general concern for the Faculty Senate or for the University and not a matter concerning only an individual college or administrative area.)


Background for Honors College Strategic Plan Creating an Honors College will position Georgia Southern University to better attract and retain talented students. Due to the downward trend in the number of high school graduates in the coming years, competition for strong students will continue to intensify. Rigorous and high-impact educational experiences provided by the Honors College will contribute to the success of these students and the success of the institution. Additionally, the visibility and prestige of an Honors College creates greater potential for donors as well as a naming opportunity. Nationally, the number of honors colleges has doubled in the last 15 years. Within Georgia, four of our competitors (Georgia State, Kennesaw State, Valdosta State, and Columbus State) have created Honors Colleges in the past 10 years. This fall, Georgia College and State University will launch its new Honors College. We are the only USG comprehensive university without an honors college. In fact, Georgia Southern is now the largest non-flagship public university in the country without an honors college. In April 2019, Provost Reiber charged the Honors Council with the development of a strategic plan for the transition of the University Honors Program into an Honors College. The Council, along with the staff of the Honors Program, conducted a thorough planning process that included assessment of the current program, research on best practices, and a review from a team of two external honors professionals trained by the National Collegiate Honors Council. The resulting Honors College Strategic Plan, using the university's plan as a framework, outlines the key objectives and actions to guide the creation of the college. The initial roll-out of the Honors College will build off of the successful University Honors Program, a program that is already more developed than many honors colleges. As such, beginning the transition will be relatively low cost because, much like the College of Graduate Studies, Honors already operates as an overlay to all academic colleges. The expectation is that most of the ways faculty have engaged with honors students such as in small class settings and through mentoring undergraduate research and creative activities will continue to exist and we will expand opportunities, especially on the Armstrong Campus. Honors College Strategic Planning Task Force Members: Dr. Trey Denton Professor, Department of Marketing Dr. Francis Desiderio Associate Director, University Honors Program Dr. Steven Engel Director, University Honors Program; Associate Professor, Department of Political Science Dr. Nancy McCarley Associate Professor, Department of Psychology Dr. Jonathan Roberts Associate Director and Armstrong Campus Lead, University Honors Program; Professor, Department of Psychology Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson Professor, Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading Honors Council Members: Dr. Cheryl Aasheim Professor, Department of Information Technology Dr. Elizabeth Barrow Assistant Professor, Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education Dr. Trey Denton Professor, Department of Marketing Dr. Hans-Georg

Erney Associate Professor, Department of Literature Dr. Rose Mary Gee Associate Professor, School of Nursing Dr. Priya Goeser Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering Dr. Michelle Haberland Professor, Department of History Dr. Alan Harvey Professor, Department of Biology Dr. Nicholas Mangee Associate Professor, Department of Finance Dr. Nancy McCarley Associate Professor, Department of Psychology Dr. Britton McKay Professor, School of Accountancy Dr. John R O'Malley Assistant Professor, Department of Information Technology Dr. Glenda Ogletree Associate Professor, Department of Elementary Education Dr. Joe Pellegrino Associate Professor, Department of Literature Dr. Ria Ramoutar Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Dr. Jamie Scalera Associate Professor, Department of Political Science Dr. Jennifer Zettler Professor, Department of Biology Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson Professor, Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading Dr. Matthew Williamson Associate Professor, Department Health Science and Kinesiology Dr. Brent Wolfe Professor, School of Human Ecology ATTACHMENT: Honors Strategic Plan Submitted by Michelle Haberland (CAH) and Nancy McCarley (CBSS)

**If you have an attachment, press the button below to attach to form and send.**

 Honors College Strategic Plan.pdf  
126.85 KB

 Click here to attach a file

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**Approval**


Response:

Approved 

1/24/2020 

SEC Response:

The SEC gave approval for this Discussion Item to add this item to the Faculty Senate agenda on 2/5/2020. Dr. Steve Engel and other co-signees will be asked to discuss the item on the Faculty Senate floor.

2/5/2020 

Senate Response:

Discussion: Michelle Haberland (CAH) is on the Honors Council. Members of this Council wanted to provide an opportunity for Senators to ask questions about the transition to a Honors College. She then gave background on the proposal for this change. This is an opportunity for us to enhance enrollment. It will give us a higher profile to recruit high achieving students. Dustin Anderson (CAH) asked if there was anything in the timeline that we could do to help facilitate this process. Carl Reiber (Provost) noted that this is an excellent, successful program. He was surprised that our Honors Program wasn't a college when he arrived at GSU. The promise is that they will see growth and will make requests for budgets like any other unit. There will be some internal restructuring. Budgeting has been thought through. Steve Engel (Directors, Honors Program) noted that some internal restructuring will occur pending core changes. The goal is to involve students to help create an intensive honors experience.



President's Response:

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