

Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies 2008-09 Report to the Faculty

There was confusion in the fall term about the membership in the committee.

In the fall the committee included the following faculty: Beth Freeborn, Katherin Levitan, Ann Marie Stock, Tim Costelloe, Josh Erlich, Arnab Basu, and Joel Schwartz. The student members were Michael Blaakman, Meghan Dunne, James Lewis, and K. Bailey Thomson

The actual (and spring) faculty members are Beth Freeborn, Ann Marie Stock, Tim Costelloe, Josh Erlich, Arnab Basu, Greg Hancock, Erin Minear, Paul Tian, and Joel Schwartz. The student members are Michael Blaakman, Meghan Dunne, James Lewis, and K. Bailey Thomson

The Committee met twice in the fall term and is about to meet in the spring term. Primary items of business have included:

(1) Monroe Scholars

- ! 100 Monroe Scholars have been approved to do their upper-division projects (\$3,000) in summer, 2009.
- ! In addition, 53 freshman Monroes have been provided with funding to do freshman projects (\$1,000) in summer 2009. Unlike the upper-division grants, freshman grants are not guaranteed.
- ! We now have a total of about 120 Monroe Scholars in each class. To arrive at this number, we admit about 80 as entering freshmen and, depending on the specific number that matriculate, “top up” the group with rising sophomores. We matriculated 86 freshmen Monroes in fall, 2007, and faculty members of CHIS selected 34 rising sophomores in fall, 2008.

(2) The Committee discussed and approved the new minor in Community Studies in November, 2008. It then forwarded the minor to EPC for its consideration.

(3) May Seminars

Faculty members of CHIS will referee May Seminar proposals later this month.

(4) Concentration Honors

Over the past several years more and more departments and programs have dropped the multiple degrees of honors. The committee discussed whether it might be advisable to propose some kind of standardization for Faculty of Arts and Sciences consideration – perhaps that we get rid of degrees of honors for all departments. In the fall the Committee decided to postpone any action on this topic.

(5) 160 students started senior honors theses in the 08-09 academic year. 22 of these students dropped out of the program, leaving 138 students who are currently preparing to defend their senior honors theses. The number of students completing honors theses has been very stable at ~10% for two decades. Department numbers:

American Studies	3
Anthropology	9

Applied Science	0
Art and Art History	6
Biology	6
Chemistry	11
Classical Studies	0
Economics	3
English	9
Env. Science and Policy	1
Geology	6
Global Studies	5
Government	5
History	9
Interdis.– Self-Designed	5
International Relations	2
Kinesiology	1
Linguistics	0
Literary and Cultural Studies	1
Mathematics	10
Medieval and Renaissance Studies	1
Modern Languages	4
Music	2
Neuroscience	8
Philosophy	1
Physics	8
Psychology	12
Public Policy	1
Religious Studies	1
Sociology	3
Theater, Speech and Dance	3
Women's Studies	0
Total	138