

**Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies (CHIS)
Spring, 2004 Report to the Arts and Sciences Faculty**

Faculty Members of CHIS

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Student Members of CHIS

Christopher Frankenfeld, Lenae Nolan, Scott Phelps, and Ellen Turner.

The Committee has met about once-per-month over this academic year. The following are the primary agenda items that it has considered.

1. Faculty members of CHIS advised 203 Monroe Scholars who applied to do their summer Monroe projects in summer, 2004. This process is now almost completed.
2. The Committee discussed a significant change to the Monroe Scholar Program that will take effect beginning with the next (fall 2004) entering class. These are changes that have been under discussion for quite awhile, and they reflect our desire to improve the program in a couple significant ways. These changes will have no effect on current Monroe Scholars; they neither may nor must elect to come under the new format.

The Monroe Scholar Program has been in existence since the 1982-83 school year. It has undergone several changes over the years, including the addition of the summer scholarship in 1990 and the addition of the competitive freshman scholarship in 2000. We will augment the program in two additional ways beginning with the class that enters in the fall of 2004.

(a) Beginning with the fall, 2004 entering class, the stipend for the summer project will be increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000. In part, this change reflects our recognition that costs have gone up since 1990; most important, it reflects an increased focus on serious academic research as the objective of the program. Under the new program Monroes will be required to do rigorous academic projects.

(b) In addition, while the majority of Monroe Scholars will continue to be named from the entering freshman class, a significant number of students (about 40) who are not named Scholars as entering freshmen will be able to apply to receive this designation as rising sophomores. This change reflects the wide consensus that has long existed among faculty and students that students who do not enter the College as Monroes ought to be able to achieve this designation if they distinguish themselves academically. These additional students will receive the same \$3,000 summer research scholarship awarded to Scholars designated as entering freshmen.

To make these changes possible, the total number of Monroes will be somewhat lower than at present.

3. Thanks to funding from Dean Watkinson, the May Seminar program has been reinstated for

spring, 2004. CHIS is currently reviewing 13 applications for funding under this program.

4. The Committee has been asked to consider the approval of a new interdisciplinary major in Chinese Language and Literature. It has asked MLL and EPC to supply it with further information before it can fully consider this proposal.