

Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies 2009-10 Report to the Arts and Sciences Faculty

2009-10 committee members included: faculty members Beth Freeborn, Katherin Levitan, Ann Marie Stock, Tim Costelloe, Greg Hancock, Erin Minear, Margaret Saha, Joel Schwartz, and Paul Tian; and student members Allison Baeuchler, Conley Jones, Stephen Lendway, and Mailey Thomson.

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

(1) Monroe Scholars

- 108 Monroe Scholars have been approved to do their upper-division projects (\$3,000) in summer, 2010.
- In addition, 53 freshman Monroes have been provided with funding to do freshman projects (\$1,000) in summer 2010. Unlike the upper-division grants, freshman grants are not guaranteed.
- We now have a total of 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 67 freshmen Monroes in fall, 2008, and faculty members of CHIS selected 53 rising sophomores in fall, 2009.

(2) The Committee had a lengthy discussion in the fall of possible recommendations that it might make about the departmental honors program. Specifically, it discussed proposing the standardization of a 1-level (“honors”) honors system, which has become the practice of a growing number of departments. It also discussed raising the standardized, A&S-wide minimum GPA for eligibility to a higher level (it’s currently an overall 3.0). The committee was divided on some of these topics and decided to postpone making a recommendation.

(3) The Committee has discussed the new proposed degree program in Asian and Middle East Studies. It has requested, and is awaiting, additional clarification on the resources that are available to support this program.

(4) The Committee has received 18 proposals for May Seminar funding. The faculty members of CHIS are currently evaluating these proposals and will announce decisions soon.

(5) 160 students started senior honors theses in the 09-10 academic year. 24 of these students dropped out of the program, leaving 136 students who are currently preparing to defend their theses. The number of students completing honors theses has been very stable at ~10% for two decades. Department numbers:

American Studies	1
Anthropology	4
Applied Science	0
Art and Art History	3
Biology	17
Chemistry	10
Classical Studies	1
Economics	3
English	12
Env. Science and Policy	0
Geology	8
Global Studies	0
Government	3
History	8
Interdis.– Self-Designed	6
International Relations	4
Kinesiology	2
Linguistics	4
Literary and Cultural Studies	0
Mathematics	8
Medieval and Renaissance Studies	0
Modern Languages	5
Music	0
Neuroscience	7
Philosophy	1
Physics	3
Psychology	12
Public Policy	0
Religious Studies	2
Sociology	2
Theater, Speech and Dance	2
Women's Studies	4
Total	136