

## **Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies 20013-14 Report to the Arts and Sciences Faculty**

20013-14 committee members included: faculty members John Charles, Kinesiology, Christopher Freiman, Philosophy, Greg Hancock, Geology, Tom Linneman, Sociology, Richard Lowry, English/American Studies, Robert Pike, Chemistry, Carol Sheriff, History, Gene Tracy, Physics, Elizabeth Wiley, Theatre, Speech, Dance, Lisa Grimes, Charles Center, Joel Schwartz, Charles Center; and student members Elizabeth Hubbard, Ashley Naper, Ana O’Harrow, and Mariya Kretova.

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**

94 Monroe Scholars have been approved to do their upper-division projects (\$3,000) in summer, 2014.

In addition, 47 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 have been graduating a total of 120 Monroe Scholars, about 90 of whom entered as freshmen, and the rest as rising sophomores. CHIS selected 34 rising sophomore Monroes in fall, 2013.

Beginning in fall 2014, we are able to increase the number of Monroe Scholars in each graduating class to 150, about 120 in each freshman class and the rest as rising sophomores.

(2) The Committee discussed of possible recommendation that it might make concerning 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 (about half, now) of departments. The committee, like the faculty as a whole, is divided on this topic, and it decided to not make a recommendation at this time..

(3) The Committee approved two small updates to the Minor in Biochemistry, and it approved a new interdisciplinary degree program in Computational and Applied Mathematics and Statistics. These have both been forwarded to EPC.

(4) This year there were two distinct May Seminar programs, one organized by the College Fellows that targeted the development of courses for the new curriculum, and one sponsored by CHIS for projects in all other areas. There were 21 proposals submitted in response to the CHIS RFP and the committee plans to complete its review of these in the week beginning 4/28.

(5) 140 students are completing senior honors thesis in spring, 2014. The number of students completing honors theses has been very stable at ~10% of the graduating class for two decades. Department numbers:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Number</b>
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<b>Department</b>	<b>Number</b>
American Studies	2
Anthropology	3
Art and Art History	1
Biology	14
Chemistry	14
Computer Science	1
Economics	3
English	15
Environmental Science and Policy	1
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	1
Geology	8
Global Studies	1
Government	12
History	9
Interdisciplinary Studies	13
International Relations	3
Kinesiology and Health Sciences	1
Mathematics	5
Modern Languages and Literatures	3
Neuroscience	4
Philosophy	1
Physics	7
Psychology	8
Public Policy	1
Religious Studies	3
Sociology	1
Theatre, Speech, and Dance	5