



Honors Student Leadership Development Through Student Organization Advising

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Honors Education at Research Universities 2015

Date

UConn

Overview

- Quick snapshot of UConn Honors (Fact Sheets)
- 6 Current Formal Student Organizations
- Honors staff Advisor Role
- Honors Across State Borders evolution
- Honors Student Leadership Collaborative
- Reflections
- Future Plans



6 Student Organizations

- **Honors Council**
 - Voice for Honors students and event planning, 5 Executive Board, 6 committees chairs, 70 students, Fundraising on own and through Undergraduate Student Government, established in 2000 (previously Honors Program Coordinating Council)
- **Peer Allies Through Honors (PATH)**
 - Mentoring first-year students, 5 coordinators, 114 mentors, 186 mentees, funding from Honors Program, established in 2007
- **Honors Initiative for Prospective Students (HIPS)**
 - Recruitment events and welcoming, 4 coordinators, ~50 volunteers, funding from Honors Program, established in 2007
- **Leadership in Action (LIA)**
 - Notable speaker events and leadership development, 3 board members, 8 members, funding from Honors Program, established in 2004 as Global Leadership Commission
- **Honors Across State Borders (HASB)**
 - Service and community outreach, particularly alternative spring break, 2 Directors, 7 Team Leaders, 50 participants, established in 2008
- **Honors in Business Association (HiBA)**
 - Connect students interested in business, 8 Executive Board, 30 members, established in 2014

Advisor Role

- Question asking (“How have you considered...”)
- Risk management
- Organizational sustainability and transition (End of Year Report)
- Connections to partners and navigating the large university structure
- Big picture view to promote collaboration and prevent duplication
- Liaison to other Honors staff

What role do you take on with student organizations?

What questions do you ask?



HASB Evolution



- Case study
 - Established in 2008, student leaders responsible for planning/execution
 - Branched off from Honors Council Community Service committee
 - Now separate organization with own funding
- Advisor Role
 - Moderating transition to new organization (finances, helping organizations continue to work together)
 - Connections to alternative break resources through Community Outreach Department
 - Discussions about risk involved in contracts and travel programs
 - Intentionally working with student leaders before trip to empower them and serve mostly as participant on the trip

Honors Student Leadership Collaborative

- Need identified by Honors and Residence Education staff
- Managing the size and ideas within our Honors Program
- Collaboration between student leaders
- Prevention of duplication
- Sounding board and advisory council for Director of Honors
- Includes Resident Assistants and Area Council Representatives

How do you help Honors student leaders collaborate?

How do you relay information from Honors students to rest of Honors staff?



Reflections

- Internal Honors organizations allow for leadership opportunities early in students' careers
- Foundational opportunities that lead to involvement beyond Honors
- Focus on question asking, empowerment, providing opportunities critical to Honors Program mission but that allow for creativity and student ideas
- Organizations evolve and new needs arise
- Student outcomes:
 - Sense of community in Honors; relationship development
 - Breaks down larger community
 - Confidence to pursue opportunities beyond Honors
 - Mentorship and close connection to Honors staff
 - Understanding complexity of organizations
 - Navigating difficult conversations
 - Ownership over experience



Future Plans

- Civic Scholars Collective
- Honors in STEM
- Women in Leadership

Are there other student organization missions that you have at your institution that are not evident in ours?

How do you manage ideas for new student organizations?



Discussion/Questions



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