**Honors College General Assembly**

**SOAR Analysis: Student and Faculty Comments**

**March 21, 2019**

**Strengths (green):**

* Collaboration of people who want to make a difference; courses that expand my world perspective
* Free printing, Enhancement Scholarship, expanding the range of types of Honors courses available, smaller class sizes, open advising
* Great staff and faculty with open door policies
* Small class sizes, one-on-one learning with faculty, unique classes, easy to provide feedback, social and community service opportunities, community
* Working in/with Honors is to keep oneself challenged, to be open to discomforts and difference, to strive for excellence in education, community, and personal life; unique for diverse and interdisciplinary offerings and encouraged service
* Approachable faculty, unique curriculum; small class sizes encourage strong relationships
* Opportunities not available in other parts of campus, printing, close-knit group, hard-working students, leadership opportunities
* Valuable resources: free printing, class registration on the first day, space to quietly work on homework
* Honors first-year seminars have really built community among students
* Honors advisors working with students, scholarships, LLC, holding students to a higher standard
* Honors advising
* Scholarships, physical space, and academic opportunities are the most important Honors experience. Honors excels at integrating academic departments and student demographics into a trans-campus movement
* Free printing, small class size, Honors contract, professionals who work in the office, leadership classes
* Variety of classes provides a way to “get away” from my major and develop a broader “tool kit;” diversity of students in those courses is a way to make connections outside of just the people in my department; supportive of students taking charge of their education
* Class size and environment

**Opportunities (blue):**

* I think having slightly more structured curriculum required could help ALL Honors students excel academically; perhaps required seminars for each grade and a flexible capstone project
* Intellectual discussions/forums/presentations; opportunities to showcase students’ talents
* Innovating events
* Presence
* Connection with other students (particularly students who don’t live in the dorms), out-of-classroom learning experiences with other students, infrastructure to connect students at different points along their educational journey
* There are not very many events that partner with other organizations and/or offices on campus (ODI, student success, SGA)
* Unified Honors community, interaction among Honors students, structured idea of Honors curriculum
* We could partner with the summer transition programs to get new students more familiar with Honors and more interested
* More options for Honors classes
* Smaller, more informal; social yet scholarly interactions and dialogue among student and faculty; utilize existing spaces around campus for activities, events, “cafes,” etc. blending Honors students in dialogue with other majors, departments, etc. (library speak-ins or presentation, symposia; informal)
* Recognition for students: there aren’t many in-between awards or recognition for current, high-achieving students; more of this would be a good way to make students feel valued
* More Honors students should be more involved and connected within Honors; maybe mandatory orientations or events
* Scholarships, study abroad/travel opportunities, wider range of classes (more variety), networking with community professionals
* More Engineering and Honors relationships/courses; wider range of leadership-styles taught
* First-year, class-wide engagement: it would be nice for students to have an experience freshman year shared by everyone; partnerships with leadership services could be helpful
* Strong community: the Honors community feels small and a bit like-minded; having a better, diverse, involved community would be great; partnering with other educational organizations (eg. ASL club, [something] clubs, public education, etc.)
* More conferences for research
* I would like to see some more Honors classes added for STEM courses
* A sense of community is not being fulfilled
* A bigger study space for just Honors students; connections with other colleges (such as social collaboration); bookshelves inside Honors college

**Aspirations (orange):**

* More STEM opportunities and collaborations like research, connected community where everyone feels welcome, merging/collaborating with other colleges/identities on campus
* Organized group volunteering; mentoring/tutoring within WSU or with community outreach
* Ways to share my knowledge with other people (particularly kids; science outreach is my passion)
* More involvement opportunities for students who live off campus
* As a college, volunteering for something in the community
* Engaged community with a shared goal for student success and active engagement from all students; Honors can provide students with opportunities not found elsewhere on campus
* Starting positive trends of community
* Reducing the amount of busy work in the classroom
* Being actively park of other organizations and going as a group to support different events; T-shirts; what kinds of philanthropy could we be involved in?
* Richer involvement around campus inviting/opening to various areas of current Honors majors; symposia seminar set-up: multiple faculty in dialogue and perspective with student groups/classes
* More diverse, better recruitment to current students/HS seniors, more applied learning, leadership opportunities
* Branching into graduate school, offering interdisciplinary ways to enhance graduate education
* High selectivity based on very holistic metrics; becoming a regional academic leader in undergraduate education
* Honors college can make a difference by creating a more meaning college experience and continuing to help those passionate about learning and always taking things a step above average
* Scientific discoveries; making the world a better place

**Results (pink):**

* A (marked difference?) in quality between a regular WSU education and an Honors WSU education in favour of Honors
* High student participation and retention
* Overcoming challenging material/classes
* When students seek activities to further their passions
* Success when alumni give feedback that Honors made a difference in their WSU experience
* When each student has benefits from the college beyond unique classes
* My GPA
* Increased number of applicants already in college
* Feel challenged, some specific goals or coordination that come to occur or are achieved, social cohesion, sense of belonging with your cohorts/peers
* Helping students be well-rounded individuals; more classes requested by students
* When alumni give back to the program
* Retaining students through graduation
* Increased opportunities, increased quality of life, gaining knowledge that changed world perspectives
* How positive the conversations describing the Honors community in terms of how well students enjoyed their Honors courses
* There will always be room for improvement even if a level of success is achieved. Things like student success, opportunities, greater class offerings, and prestige on campus indicate good results
* When discussions take place before/after class about the why behind the textbook
* Students feel valued; students are succeeding; Honors courses offered in variety of areas for many students
* When we have received feedback on these areas that state needs are met or when we don’t receive more feedback at all
* When students are asking questions in the classroom, unafraid of being judged
* I think a good measure of our success is the number of high-achieving students we can attract and retain in the college and their perceived satisfaction