

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability **NO.:** AAC 09-28
COMMITTEE DATE: May 29, 2009
BOARD DATE: June 4, 2009

**RENEWAL OF NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE
COMMONWEALTH HONORS PROGRAM**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education accepts the report of the
Commonwealth Honors Program Executive Committee and renews the
membership of **North Shore Community College** in the
Commonwealth Honors Program for six years, effective June 4, 2009.

Authority: Commonwealth Honors Program Approval Process Guidelines as
Revised by the Board of Higher Education in November 2006.

Contact: Francesca B. Purcell, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Academic
and P16 Policy

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 2009

North Shore Community College

Renewal of Membership in Commonwealth Honors Program

Background

This motion concerns the continuation of North Shore Community College's membership in the Commonwealth Honors Program (CHP). According to the Commonwealth Honors Program Guidelines, once Commonwealth Honors Program approval has been obtained by an institution, the Program will be reviewed every six years by the Commonwealth Honors Executive Committee. The report of the Committee shall be forwarded to the Board of Higher Education for approval. This is the first renewal cycle for North Shore Community College.

Review Process

North Shore Community College prepared a self-study document presenting its Honors Program structure and operations in terms of the Commonwealth Honors Program requirements. The report provided evidence documenting fulfillment of the following criteria:

1. Alignment of the mission and goals of the Honors Program with those of North Shore Community College
2. Organization and administration
3. Admissions criteria
4. Transfer criteria
5. Program curriculum
6. Graduation criteria
7. Program resources
8. Approval procedures for new courses
9. Student enrollment for past three years
10. Approval procedures for new courses

Review Team Findings and Recommendations

On March 4, 2009, a review team (Susan McPherson, Associate Professor and Honors Program Coordinator, Quinsigamond Community College; Matt Silliman, Professor and Honors Program Co-Chair, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; and Professor Doreen Arcus, University of Massachusetts Lowell), appointed by the Commonwealth Honors Council, conducted the six-year review. Prior to the on-campus visit, the team reviewed the self-evaluation prepared by the College. The site visit was hosted and organized by Honors Program Coordinator Marcey Marold. The team also met with College President Wayne Burton, Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Frydrych, Honors Committee members, faculty and students.

On the basis of the campus visit, the review of the self-evaluation, and the materials received during the on-campus visit, the team concluded that North Shore Community College Honors Program substantially satisfies the CHP criteria. The review team recommended to the Commonwealth Honors Executive Committee that it renew the membership of North Shore Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program.

The review team made the following recommendations: (1) funding for coordinator work done outside of the academic calendar, specifically, for summer recruitment; (2) space for the program and its students on the Danvers campus; (3) exploring new ideas for the honors program committee; (4) institutional membership in the National Collegiate Honors Council; (5) a general education, honors-only course offered to incoming students to integrate them into the honors program early in their time at North Shore Community College; (6) stronger communication regarding scholarship availability for honors program students, as well as additional honors activities; and (7) honors committee members voting on honors seminar curriculum.

Institutional Response

North Shore Community College (NSCC) responded to the recommendations with the following statements:

1. There is an administrative policy in place for the coordinator to receive compensation for work done outside of the academic year.
2. The honors coordinator has assigned office space on the Danvers campus in the faculty office area. In order to be available to Danvers students, each semester the coordinator teaches on the Danvers campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays with scheduled office hours before class and is available after class. In addition, there is always at least one Honors Program Committee faculty member on the Danvers campus Monday through Friday. Student lounge facilities for Danvers students will be evaluated when the federal and state budget crisis has stabilized.
3. In regard to new ideas for the honors program committee:
 - a) The possibility of co-coordinators will be reconsidered further as the program grows.
 - b) Student representatives will participate on the honors committee.
 - c) A mechanism for replacing members every three years will be implemented.
4. Institutional membership in the National Collegiate Honors Council will be reinstated, pending budgetary considerations.
5. NSCC is considering developing an honors composition course for incoming students in the fall semester and an introduction to literature course for continuing students in the spring semester.
6. NSCC will evaluate the effectiveness of its correspondence regarding honors scholarships for next year to determine what other communication might be helpful. One of NSCC's committee members will coordinate cultural, academic, and social events throughout the semester.
7. The curriculum review process" for honors seminar course development is designed to give the committee ample time and opportunity to consider and respond to topics and course content. Honors Committee members have full control over seminar curriculum.

North Shore Community College will provide a status report on its response at the spring 2010 Commonwealth Honors Council meeting.

Recommendation

Board of Higher Education staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation received from the CHP Executive Committee and recommends that the Board approve the renewal of the membership of North Shore Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program.