February 9, 2012

JUNE GORDON
Chair, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
SUSAN STROME
Chair, CAFA Honors Subcommittee
COLLEGE PROVOSTS

Dear Colleagues:

RE: Honors Proposal

Thank you for your hard work in developing the Proposal for Honors Program for 2012-13. Although specifically addressing next academic year, this proposal represents the launch of a comprehensive first-year honors program for the campus, one that targets our top entering students, is available at many colleges, will impact yield, and will build tight cohorts of exceptional students that expand through the year to include inter-college activities. I am struck by the way that the proposal blends a campus-wide framework and experience while maintaining the distinctiveness of our various college communities of scholarship.

I am committed to ensuring that this program is a success, to developing and growing the program, and seeking to leverage the success of these efforts into a long-term program. The program includes Fall honors core or Core Café (Stevenson) sections, Winter honors second-quarter core (Stevenson) or seminars that may include students joining the offerings of different colleges, and a Spring research seminar course.

Regarding the resource requests within the proposal:

- **Faculty Director of Honors Programs.** I have begun recruitment for a Faculty Director of Honors Programs who will play a collaborating leadership role in this first-year program, as well as develop upper-division honors strategies and broad dissemination of honors opportunities available at our campus.

- **Dedicated Honors Advisor within the College Advising Support Team.** I am open to considering this possibility in the future, but do not see a clear advantage to the 2012-13 program. The UCSC Honors Program focuses the first (and second) quarter on college communities. Having a staff advisor outside the college would not be consistent with this model. However, we propose that our Honors Coordinator collaborate with the Provosts on the recruitment of faculty advisors for the honors students, as we do for the Regent’s and Pister Fellows. Also, I understand that, beyond the advising function, there is concern about related administrative tasks that could fall to college advising staff. To ensure this does not unduly burden advisers, my office will work to identify efficiencies and functions that might be better approached by the divisional office or the Colleges Advising Support Team, rather than individual colleges.

- **Honors web page.** A responsibility of the Faculty Director will be working with the Honors Coordinator and divisional staff to develop an outstanding honors web page. This site will be designed as both a recruitment tool and a resource to honors students throughout campus seeking to take advantage of the diverse opportunities available at UC Santa Cruz.
• **Instructional Support.** The Division is committed to supporting the instructional cost (faculty course buyouts) with a mixture of approximately 50% College funds and 50% central divisional funds, by guidelines previously distributed. I greatly support growth of the honors program to support closer to 50 students per college (200 total, 5.4% of the incoming class). If outreach and recruitment is successful, I will happily fund 75% of the instructional cost of second honors seminars during 2012-13.

• **Meals associated with Spring research talks.** The Colleges typically fund food associated with student programming, subject to divisional and campus expenditure policy, and this will be the approach for the 2012-13 honors program. However, the Division will be pleased to host at least two campus honors receptions during the year. I am happy to discuss funding possibilities for Colleges that may have insufficient funds for expenses related to the honors program.

• **Honors activities for the second-year students at Cowell.** A review of communications between IVPDUE and the Cowell Provost indicate that the sophomore experience was discussed as being carried by Cowell funding.

• **Evaluation.** Although not mentioned in the proposal, I am committed to program evaluation, the cornerstone of program improvement. Working with the Honors Faculty Director, the Provosts, and CAFA, we will determine the scope and method of evaluation, being sure to touch upon curriculum, advising, activities, and related matters. I will provide necessary funding, personnel, or both.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with everyone involved on the 2012-13 honors program, building upon the experiences of the trailblazing 2011-12 Cowell Cohort, and developing the knowledge and structures for an enduring UC Santa Cruz first-year honors program.

Sincerely,

Richard Hughey  
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

Attachments: Honors Proposal Support Emails

cc: CEP Chair Zurbriggen  
AVC Enrollment Management Whittingham  
Director of Admissions McCawley  
Advising Coordinator Sketo-Rosener  
Honors Coordinator Robinson