DATE: January 26, 2015

TO: All Honors Scholars

FROM: Elizabeth Brown-Guillory, Ph.D.
Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs and Interim Dean of the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College

SUBJECT: Summary of information presented at the Spring Honors General Assembly on Saturday, January 24, 2015

1. Honors students must enroll in and pass/complete 15 semester credit hours in each of the two long semesters (fall and spring) as well as maintain a 3.25 semester and 3.25 cumulative GPA. All students who did not meet these two requirements have been placed on probation. Letters were sent out last week to all students placed on probation. The letter includes a call for all students placed on probation to schedule a meeting with their Honors College advisors immediately, preferably before January 31st.

2. Students were directed to seek immediate help from their Honors College advisors on Monday, January 26th and Tuesday, January 27th, to add courses to ensure that they are, indeed, enrolled in the minimum number of 15 semester credit hours this spring semester to avoid suspension from the Honors College.

3. Students were reminded of the Honors College’s October 2014 contract in which all students were asked to sign stating that they understood the requirements for remaining in the Honors College (enroll in and complete 15 semester credit hours in fall and spring and maintain 3.25 semester and cumulative GPA). The aim of this reminder was to provide ample encouragement for Honors students to meet the much-published requirements, which will be enforced at the end of May 2015.

4. The Honors staff discussed the importance of all students meeting monthly with their Honors academic advisors. We demonstrated the connection between strong academic advising and student success. We encouraged students to take advantage of the Honors resources available to help them excel.

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5. Students were provided information about the Course Augmentation Proposals courses (CAPS), and juniors and seniors were reminded to meet with their Honors advisors immediately to complete paper work for this semester's proposal courses. Additionally, students were informed that effective Fall 2015, the Honors College was instituting the requirement of Honors Enhancements in General Education (HEGE) courses. Honors staff will explain the process for petitioning for Honors enhancements in core courses during their monthly advisement sessions this semester as well as be able to access the process via the Honors website.

6. The Honors staff reminded students of the Honors student organizations that were put in place in Fall 2014 and underscored that every Honors student is required to participate in a minimum of two Honors student organizations to remain in good standing in the college.

7. The Honors staff reminded students that they are required to attend a minimum of two Honors sponsored events each semester and that the Spring 2015 Honors Calendar will be available by the end of January on the Honors College website.

8. The Honors staff announced the creation of new minors that will be housed in the Honors College beginning in Fall 2015, including a minor in Legal Studies/Dual Degree in Law and a minor in Medical Studies. Other minors are being developed to strengthen Honors. The Honors College is developing an internship program to provide students in Honors minors with practical experience in their fields of study.

9. The Honors staff discussed the upcoming First Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium scheduled for April 2015. All Honors students will be invited to participate, including students who are members of Arts in Honors and Research in Honors student organizations and specifically those juniors and seniors who are receiving recognition for course augmentation proposals. To clarify, every graduating senior (any Honors student in his/her final semester) is required to make a public presentation, and this symposium will serve as the vehicle or venue.

10. The Spring Honors General Assembly closed with an invitation to students to meet briefly with their advisors to schedule a monthly advisement meeting to discuss Honors College requirements or to receive help with any concern or issue.

I encourage you to meet monthly with your Honors academic advisors, Dr. Dianne Jemison Pollard, Dr. Hector Miranda, and Dr. Nina Cofer, and to meet with me as often as you wish. We are eager to help you excel! We are doing our very best to provide you with an outstanding learning experience that will ensure that you graduate on time (perhaps early) and with high honors.