

MINUTES
GREAT PLAINS HONORS COUNCIL
Business Meeting
Emporia State University (As part of the GPHC Conference)
April 20, 1996

The meeting was called to order on Saturday, April 20 at 4:30 p.m. by President K. Ann Dempsey (St. Louis Community College--Florissant Valley).

Virginia McCombs, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, discussed the minutes from the 1995 regional meeting at the NCHC conference in Pittsburgh. The minutes were approved as corrected. Virginia then reviewed the treasurer's report. No corrections being made to the treasurer's report, a motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and carried by voice vote. Virginia noted that only 3 institutions had taken advantage of the option of first time GPHC membership for \$25.00 for the first year.

Ann asked Robert Spurrier (Oklahoma State University) to discuss the Developing in Honors session at the San Francisco NCHC conference. This year there will be 70 presenters and 14 topics, as well as a mini plenary session on documenting Honors programs on campus and linking Honors program assessment to the institutional accreditation process so as to get outside validation for programs. On-line registration for Developing in Honors is possible through the DIH homepage.

Ann thanked Ron Brown for stepping in as Travel Grant chair. The Travel Grant committee proposed awarding four scholarships of \$300 each to support students attending the Honors Semester in New York. The committee also recommends allocating up to \$3,000 in travel grant awards for the San Francisco conference in amounts of \$300 to \$400. The additional grant money is designed to encourage students to attend the San Francisco conference which will be particularly costly. Speaking for the committee, Richard Eglsaer (Sam Houston State University) expressed concerns about both the quality and quantity of student proposals. The committee asks directors to encourage students to submit proposals for conferences and/or travel grants but also to review those proposals for quality.

Ann commended the following Travel Grant winners for the Emporia conference:

Donna McCafferty (Southwest Texas State University)--"Using the Internet for Your Honors Thesis Project" \$200

Eddie Walker, Aaron Sanders, Jennifer Malone, Mark Lyon and Erica Pippins (Langston University)--"We Did It Our Way: Philosophies of Five Successful African Americans" \$200

Sarah Hague (Oklahoma State University)--"Fishing for New Honors Ideas on the Internet" \$200

Elizabeth McIvor (University of Nebraska, Omaha)--"1995 NCHC Czech Semester" \$200

Robin Pagacz and Matt Tschirhart (Park College)--"Subjugation of Women--A Think of the Past?" \$100

Jim Schulte (Southeast Missouri State University)--"Darwin and Lyell: Ways of Knowing" \$100

Ann called for a motion to accept the following Travel Grant committee recommendations:

1. The GPHC authorizes the Executive Secretary/Treasurer to distribute \$1200 in travel/scholarship assistance to the NCHC coordinator Bill Daniel. This award will be allocated in amounts of \$300 each for the four GPHC participants in the 1996 Honors Semester: Lynn Korn (St. Louis University), David Oldenkamp (John Brown University), and Julie Fonseca and Guillermo Gonzales (University of Texas-El Paso).

2. Understanding the extraordinary costs associated with attending the 1996 NCHC conference in San Francisco, the committee recommends allocating up to \$3000 for travel grants. Individual awards will not exceed \$400 for each proposal. Only one proposal will be accepted from each institution. Directors are encouraged to balance the available institutional support with the request so as to maximize the funds available. Applications materials will be sent out within the next two weeks. Applications will be due on or before August, and award announcements will be made not later than August 15.

The motion was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Spurrier reported on the NCHC Satellite Seminar, "The Arts--Landscape for Our Time, which will be offered in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa, the Honor society for two-year institutions. Deadline for subscription is May 1 for the Fall 1996 seminar. Ann Dempsey and Larry Clark (Southeast Missouri State University) described the content of the seminar.

Ann announced that Celeste Campbell (Oklahoma State University) has volunteered to set up, update, and maintain a GPHC Homepage on World Wide Web. Celeste asked for input on what should be included on the home page and thoughts about the audience for the home page. Please e-mail suggestions to Celeste.

Dennis Boe (East Central Oklahoma State University), Newsletter Editor, announced that he had been developing a data base of all colleges and universities in the six state GPHC area. Approximately 135 four year schools in the GPHC area are not members. We should be looking at promoting GPHC in the several hundred schools in our area. This summer Dennis and Chris Willerton (Abilene Christian University) will develop a GPHC brochure which can then be sent to university presidents.

Ann Dempsey proposed that we change the name of the Great Plains Honors Council Newsletter to a name more "weighty," one which might reflect favorably on students who publish their papers in it. Almer Mandt (Wichita State University) suggested "Great Plains Honors Council Journal." Dennis Boe concurred, adding that the primary focus of the publication should remain student papers. Chris Willerton questioned whether we should change the "look" of the newsletter along with the name, commenting that xerox and staples does not a journal make. Discussion followed on this point. The possibility of electronic publication was presented and discussed. Robert Spurrier asked if Dennis could investigate the costs of options for the newsletter and

make recommendations in San Francisco. Ann asked Dennis to work on a proposal for discussion and a vote in November. Dennis announced that there would be newsletters in June and the first of October.

Ann announced that Gary Wyatt (Emporia State University) had proposed a student writing competition for the spring conference. Gary Bell (Texas Tech University), Dennis Boe, and Ann Dempsey served as judges. This year's winner was Laura Bathurst's (Kansas State University) paper, "Laura Nader: A Critical Approach to Anthropology." Ann recommended that GPHC establish criteria for the next student paper competition using the NCHC Portz paper as a model. The Executive Committee will take a look at this for the Spring 1997 meeting. Ann commended Gary for this outstanding idea.

Ann reported that both she and Bob Spurrier attended the NCHC Executive Committee retreat. Bob Spurrier is the only nominee for NCHC Vice President. There followed a discussion of the Executive Committee meeting. GPHC members raised concerns about the national Honors program guide, the high cost of the San Francisco conference, and nominees for NCHC Executive Secretary/Treasurer. Ann urged support for Gary Bell in the coming election for Executive Committee and Bob Spurrier for Vice President.

Ann announced that there are a variety of activities planned for the 1997 GPHC spring conference at Southwest Texas State University. Dates for the conference are April 18-20. Bob Spurrier has booked Oklahoma State University for the 1998 GPHC conference on April 17-19. Earl Ramsey (University of Arkansas - Little Rock) proposed that the 1999 GPHC conference be held in conjunction with the Southeast Regional meeting in Little Rock. Earl expressed some concerns about increased costs of this conference. Ann asked the membership if Earl should pursue this possibility to which all agreed. Earl will report the results of his investigation in November.

Ann asked if there were student concerns. Students from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln expressed an interest in hosting a GPHC conference. Ann suggested writing any of the officers.

Ann asked for a resolution from GPHC commending Gary Wyatt and Emporia State University for an outstanding conference. The membership unanimously approved this resolution.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING
Emporia State University
April 20, 1996

Institutions attending:

Abilene Christian University
East Central Oklahoma State University
Emporia State University
Johnson County Community College
Kansas State University
Lincoln University
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University
Saint Louis Community College - Florissant Valley
Sam Houston State University
Southeast Missouri State University
Texas Christian University
University of Arkansas - Little Rock
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
University of Nebraska - Omaha
University of Texas - El Paso
Wichita State University