I. Welcome and introductions

**Discussion:** Ms. Burks stated that this is the inaugural meeting of the honors student advisory committee. All seven of the students and Ms. Burks introduced themselves.

II. Purpose of committee:

From National Collegiate Honors Council, Basic Characteristics of a Fully Developed Honors Program:

“The program should have in place a committee of honors students to serve as liaison with the honors faculty committee or council who must keep the student group fully informed on the program and elicit their cooperation in evaluation and development. This student group should enjoy as much autonomy as possible conducting the business of the committee in representing the needs and concerns of all honors students to the administration, and it should also be included in governance, serving on the advisory/policy committee as well as constituting the group that governs the student association.”

**Discussion:** This committee was formed so that students can be part of what is happening in the honors program. The students in the committee can be the students that will go with Ms. Burks to the honors orientations to tell about the program.

III. Update on what is happening with honors at PBCC

**Discussion:** The honors program has been turned into a honors college. This change may result in more scholarships for the students in the honors college.

IV. Possible changes

a. Change GPA requirement from 3.5 to 3.2
b. Two-tiered graduation structure
   i. Honors Diploma (AA)
      1. 18 hours honors credits
      2. IDS2105 – “Honors Knowledge Through the Ages”
      3. Service Learning Component or Point System
      4. 3.5 GPA
   ii. Certificate (AA, AS, or AAS)
      1. 12 hours honors credit
      2. 3.2 GPA

**Discussion:** It was brought up that there is going to be a possible change in the 3.5 GPA requirement to a 3.2. At first all of the students were not in favor of the change because there is a prestige that comes with the 3.5 requirement and a 3.2 requirement would bring that down. Most felt that a 3.2 was too easy to obtain and would allow mediocre students into the program. It was then discussed that as of now there are not a lot of students in the program and there are lots of honors classes being canceled due to low enrollment. Because of the canceled classes it makes the professors dislike the prospect of teaching an honors classes so it makes it hard to arrange them. Students agree that low enrollment in the program is
most likely due to lack of advertisement of the program. Most of the students were introduced to the program by chance when exploring the pbcc website. It was suggested that letters should be mailed out to students that are eligible for the program and advisors should inform more students about the program. Ms. Burks informed the students that if the requirement was lowered to 3.2 then that would double the amount of eligible students and would put the honors program and PTK in sync. With more students in the program there would more than likely be an increase in the students that enroll in honors classes which would mean less cancellations and more classes being offered. The requirements for honors programs at similar schools were also explored and compared to pbcc’s honors program requirements. Many of the other schools have a lower GPA requirement and require more than 12 hours of honor work to receive an honors diploma. It was stated that 12 hours of honors work as a requirement is not enough to make a good honors program. So most agreed that 18 hours of honors work would be an adequate and reasonable amount of honors work for an honors diploma (AA), along with a service learning project that would probably involve some type of community service. The idea of the two-tiered graduation structure was introduced and was explained as having two different tiers and the upper one having a 3.5 GPA minimum. With the 3.5 minimum for the higher tier and the benefits of lowering the GPA to 3.2 everyone agreed that lowering the GPA requirement would be a good idea because a student can opt for the higher tier and keep a sense of prestige and it increases the size and availability of the program. It was also stated that some schools like the university of Florida only consider GPA for admission but many other schools take into consideration honors work. There was also a discussion about the newly added “Honors Knowledge Through the Ages” honors class which all the students agreed sounds like a good class but all agreed that an 8am class is hard to get to.

V. Florida Collegiate Honors Council meeting – February 22-24, 2008, Tampa

**Discussion:** Ms. Burks informed the students that if they wanted to attend the Florida Collegiate Honors Council meeting they would have to give a presentation of some of their honors work while they attended.

VI. Selection of Officers and Representation to the Honors Advisory Board

**Discussion:** It was stated that the new committee would need officers to serve on the on the Honors Advisory Board. Many of the students volunteered. Ms. Burks stated that traditionally a traditional and a nontraditional student would be chosen for the board. Camila Oliveira was chosen as president, Kamilla Smith was chosen as vice president and Sheli Muniz was selected as secretary, and no treasurer was needed due to the fact there is no funds at the present time.

**Attendance:** Jean Anthis
Cherly Contreras
Vilma Gomez
Sheli Muniz
Camila Oliveira
Jeniffer Peplow
Kamilla Smith

Submitted by Kamilla Smith