

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability **NO.:** AAC 09-26

COMMITTEE DATE: May 29, 2009

BOARD DATE: June 4, 2009

**RENEWAL OF CAPE COD 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 **Cape Cod 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

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June 2009

Cape Cod Community College

Renewal of Membership in Commonwealth Honors Program

Background

This motion concerns the continuation of Cape Cod 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 Cape Cod Community College.

Review Process

Cape Cod 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 Cape Cod 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 November 5, 2008, a review team (Susan McPherson, Associate Professor and Honors Program Coordinator, Quinsigamond Community College; Dr. Jordon Barkalow, Bridgewater State College, Honors Program Assistant Director; and Dr. Robert Darst, Honors Program Director, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth), 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 Delores Bird. The team also met with College President Kathleen Schatzberg, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Phillip Sisson, Honors Committee members, faculty and students.

The visiting committee found that the CCCC program substantially satisfies the CHP criteria, and, therefore, the visiting committee recommends Cape Cod Community College be granted Commonwealth Honors Program status.

The visiting committee made three recommendations: (1) a discussion on the feasibility of offering an honors colloquium both fall and spring semesters, (2) more cohesion among colloquium faculty, and (3) more social activities for honors students.

Institutional Response

Cape Cod Community College responded that it will consider the feasibility of offering the colloquium both fall and spring semesters based on enrollment trends and budgetary considerations in the 2010 academic year and thereafter. Faculty collaboration for the spring 2009 colloquium, entitled "The Mind-Body Connection," improved as the syllabus was submitted to the Honors Program Committee for review prior to the opening of classes. In regard to social activities for honors students, four honors students recently presented a constitution to create an organization for Honors students. Part of the duties of the vice-president will be to plan and facilitate at least one scholastic event for the Honors Program students each semester. The honors coordinator will include honors students in the literary field trip that she sponsors each semester and bring honors students to the Undergraduate Research Conference in May at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Cape Cod 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 Cape Cod Community College in the Commonwealth Honors Program.