Associate Provost Ryan Thomas’ Response to Honors Program Five Year Program Review
I would like to join Dr. Judy Elsley in thanking Drs. Richard Badenhausen, Dan Bedford and Brad Carroll
for their thoughtful and thorough review of the Honors Program.
I would also like to thank Dr. Elsley for her strong and forward looking leadership of the Honors
Program.
My response to the recommendations follow the recommendation and are in italics.
Theme: Honors Director, Staff, Faculty, and Facilities
Recommendation:
dŚĞ,ŽŶŽƌ吏⑔閆萢塨䈢,几韔䈥

The Honors Program should continue working to expand the participation in Departmental Honors to
more departments, and to encourage all departments to include in its Department Honors contract a
requirement that students take at least some of their general education courses within the Honors
Program. The College of Business and Economics, which currently has no departments offering
Departmental Honors, is especially ripe for cultivation, as two recent hires in the College (one faculty,
one administrative staff) are alumni of the WSU Honors Program.
I join with Judy in feeling that Christy Call’s current efforts to extend the departmental honors program
will prove to be successful in establishing broader participation in the program
Theme: Aletheia Club Students
Recommendation:
The Honors Director and staff should monitor the path to completion of students from different cohorts
who are Aletheia Club members, and use this data to advocate fine-tuning, if necessary, to the Aletheia
Club conditions and criteria. One possible solution would be to establish separate tiers of GPA
requirements: a lower one for first-year students and then rising requirements after that.
I have spoken with the administrators involved in the Aletheia Club and they are very open to working
with the Honors Program to “fine tune” the program with respect to this group of Honors Program
participants.
Recommendation:
As part of its usual conversations with Honors faculty and students, the Honors Director and staff should
identify the impact of Aletheia Club students, and through advising of both students and faculty act to
minimize any adverse impacts.
I support a more deliberate approach in assessing the impacts of the Aletheia students on the Honors
Program
Theme: Communication, Internal and External
Recommendation:
The Review Team believes that more effective use of technology and social media should be made to
bring the Honors Program to the attention of its external audience. The Honors Program should
establish its own Facebook page, administered jointly by the Office Manager and by one or two students
on the Student Advisory Board. The administrators can view the Facebook pages of other departments
and student groups for ideas on how best to proceed. Privacy settings can be managed to ensure the
quality of the Honors Facebook page.
I appreciate that the Honors Program has updated its web presence and I support additional efforts to
use social media to increase communication.

Reco mmendation:

g 2(The)-2(H(:)-(n)3()-(n)rs)(P(enr)2)-(n)g enu(:)ld(:) incl:: its D(endpar(:)t)((m)ental)0(H(:)-(n)3(3)-(n)rs)(ad)env(enis)2 n-(n)3(3) th()e li(3)

Recommendation:
Kyle should be included in Honors planning and other activities to become better acquainted with the
program. An Honors student could possibly be identified to work in his office and assist in fundraising
efforts. This might help the Development staff get a better feel for Honors and have specific individual
Honors stories to tell when meeting with donors.
I now meet with Kyle twice a month to discuss development efforts in academic areas, including the
Honors Program. I am delighted to explore other efforts to support development in this area.
Recommendation: