

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 27, 2016

To: UA Campus Colleagues

From: Andrew C. Comrie, Senior VP for Academic Affairs & Provost

Subject: Honors Re-Envisioning



In January 2016, I charged a Task Force to examine how the University of Arizona might re-envision our honors education program. That group's report, which includes two final documents (an assessment of their findings and a set of recommendations) was completed late last semester and is now being made available to campus.

I am excited by the energy of this report and what it suggests for the future of honors education at UA. I asked the Task Force to meet widely with members of the UA community, brainstorm big ideas, and make suggestions for where honors education at UA could go next. In all these areas, the task force has done a magnificent job and produced an outstanding report that both documents areas of strength and charts new opportunities.

What comes next? Immediately, I have placed these documents as well as reports from 1971 and 1996 on a webpage for campus viewing (<http://provost.arizona.edu/honors-re-envisioning>). I will also convene a campus conversation on the current task force report, where questions can be raised and comments taken about the report itself. It is worth a reminder that the report was not intended to be a final blueprint and was intended as an envisioning exercise to outline concepts. The discussion of these documents should therefore not become overly focused on any single detail and instead should be a means to stimulate further ideas and possibilities.

As I have previously announced, Dean MacCorquodale will be stepping down after 23 years of leading UA Honors. In the coming month, I am going to establish a search committee for the new Dean. As we look to the future of our Honors College, I would encourage the campus to use the broad strokes of this report to enhance our conversations with candidates for our new Dean about their vision for honors education at the University of Arizona.

Finally, I would like to publicly acknowledge the incredibly hard work of the task force members: Vin Del Casino (Task Force Chair, and Vice Provost/Associate Vice President), Patrick Baliani (Honors College), Paul Blowers (College of Engineering), Stephanie Choi (Honors Student), Elizabeth Hannah (Honors Student), Lisa Elfring (College of Science), Melissa Fitch (College of Humanities), Faten Ghosn (College of Social and Behavioral Sciences), and Bill Neumann (Eller College of Management). Please join me in thanking this group who spent an inordinate amount of time meeting with a wide range of constituencies and who brought remarkable energy and enthusiasm to this process.