



FULTON SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

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To: Maarten Pereboom, President, Faculty Senate
From: Lucy Morrison, Chair, Honors Program Committee
Re.: Priority Registration for Honors Freshmen and Sophomore Students
Date: 22nd November, 2005

We request that the Senate review and recommend that freshmen and sophomore Honors Program students be given priority registration for their classes. Freshmen Honors students should be allowed to register at the same time as sophomores, and sophomore Honors students at the same time as juniors. In light of the ongoing campus dialogue about possible changes in curricular models—a dialogue aimed at increasing the academic rigor and intellectual standards here at Salisbury University—we feel the importance of University support for the Honors Program's students is more crucial than ever. The rationale include:

- While all students have demands placed upon them by their major's requirements, only Honors Program students undertake to couple the demands of their major's required courses with those required by the Honors Program. Imagine being in one of SU's programs requiring significant major credit hours, and then supplementing those required courses with those also required by the Honors Program.
- Granting the students identified above priority registration would cost the University nothing, but it would provide immense benefits to the students concerned, since they must balance Honors program curricular requirements with those of their major.
- Often only one section of a major's required course and one section of a required Honors course can be offered in a semester; priority registration would allow Honors students to maintain their degree progress with Honors in a timely manner.
- Allowing priority registration should *increase retention* in the Honors Program (as has been the case at Frostburg University, where the implementation of such a policy saw the doubling of their retention rate). As our 2004-05 survey of students who left the Honors Program reveals, scheduling challenges were a major factor in their departure.
- The number of students being granted priority registration is relatively small (approx. 140 students).

Honors students are challenged to complete all their requirements in their time here; granting priority registration to the aforementioned students would allow SU to take a step in easing the administrative obstacle facing academically ambitious students.