

Dean McKusick Senate Evaluation Report (DRAFT).

What does the Dean do exceptionally well?

Dean McKusick is applauded as a tireless advocate for the Honors College. Between 2015 and 2019, the Honors College has increased enrolment from 120 students to 436 students. The curriculum is more organized and the Honors College is more diverse than those at comparable universities. Dean McKusick is especially applauded for being student-centered and for raising the profile of the Honors College with the administration. He is rated 100% in terms of the creation and maintenance of a positive climate and gets very high marks for fostering a climate conducive to diversity, for treating faculty with respect, and for obtaining and managing resources. Given the administrative structure that is in place, Dean McKusick has had great results and is very keen to go forward by continuing to grow enrollments, faculty participation, and the visibility of the Honors College across the university and beyond.

Suggestions for Improvement:

Faculty suggest that Dean McKusick could make the Honors College more visible, articulating his vision more broadly and doing more to build a framework to recruit faculty participants in the Honors curriculum. Faculty also propose a clarification of expectations for students in the Honors College, a strategic reorganization to make the Honors College more diverse (both in terms of students and faculty), and a continuation of the collaborative development and communication of a vision that supports UMKC's teaching mission. Honors faculty made clear that the definition of success is not just about numbers, but is also about high standards in terms of the courses taught and the faculty who teach. Dean McKusick is advised to be more strategic in communicating with faculty across campus, developing more robust connections with other units at UMKC by clarifying the role the Honors College plays across the university in terms of recruitment, retention, and effective teaching and learning.

Lessons learned:

Dean McKusick was extremely open in his attitude towards the evaluation process, defining it as an opportunity to learn. He committed himself to continued efforts to grow student enrolments AND faculty participation while also defining more clearly who is invested in the work of the Honors College. Dean McKusick has already worked to build connections outside CAS, bringing in faculty and students from SBS, Conservatory, Bloch, and Medicine: he fully recognizes the need to expand these efforts, working with current Honors faculty to develop a process for engaging students and faculty from other units across UMKC. The connection currently being developed between the Honors College and the Trustees Scholars Program has excellent potential to expand the reach of the Honors College. Dean McKusick acknowledges a need to communicate the goals of the College to faculty through the Senate and other channels. He also recognizes the need to build a team of Honors teachers from across the university, recognizing that this is crucial to increased enrolment.