

## **Honors Program Resolution - April 27, 2006**

For Academic Year 2005-2006 the Curriculum Development Committee along with the Academic Standards Committee has been reviewing the Honors Program at Westminster College. Recently, a draft has been made public disclosing the details of the proposed curriculum change in the Honors Program. This draft is DRAFT 4 dated March 30, 2006. Since that draft was issued it has since been revised. The premises of the program remain the same however; to provide a four-year Honors Program for the encouragement of a higher academic standard on this campus and to further fulfill the college's mission statement.

This program, while requiring a restructuring of certain programs exhibits a commitment to a more enhanced academic environment. With the goal of the Academics Committee being to support all endeavors which wish to further the academic excellence here on campus we propose that:

**Whereas** "The mission of Westminster College is to help men and women develop competencies, commitments, and characteristics which have distinguished human beings at their best. The liberal arts tradition is the foundation of the curriculum continually designed to serve this mission in a rapidly changing world."

**Whereas** Liberal Arts can be defined as "studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills)"

**Whereas** the current College Honors Program has remained static while the curriculum has developed around it; it is no longer as academically rigorous as other competitor institutions

**Whereas** this is an investment in the future of this institution as it will begin to meet requirements for establishing a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter

**Whereas** student support is a valuable insight into the viability of a proposed plan to ensure that it is supported by the campus community

**Whereas** this radical new plan will create a new community of Honors Scholars ensuring that academic excellence is at the forefront of the College's goals and in line with its Mission Statement

**Whereas** this institution is an academic one and must maintain a commitment to scholastic excellence or be faced instead with mediocrity within the classroom and among its students

**Whereas** the expectations of the program, being more rigorous than the current system, will induce a healthier scholastic environment on campus

**Whereas** a four year Honors program has become the standard for institutions

**Whereas** the new program provides for individual departments to participate in College Honors as well as promotes the creation of Departmental Honors

Be it resolved on this date, April 27, 2006 in the Senate of the Student Government Association of Westminster College that SGA, the representative body of the students at Westminster College supports fully the drafted program by the Curriculum Development Committee and Academic Standards Committee for the creation of a four year honors program as spelled out in All-College Honors Program Proposal to be voted on by the Faculty. Be it further resolved that it is the belief that the College must fully fund this plan to ensure that the future of this College is one in which the academic community will excel.