The committee discussed some issues relating to the program:

For this year Honors received some 1-time resources because of the large freshman class.

A major goal for the program is to improve completion percentage. Generally, it has only been about 50%, but with the new curriculum we are hoping to improve that.

As we implement new curriculum some issues are presenting themselves – for 1st year students we have 7 sections of one course but have no overall coordinator – that would really help with organization and functioning of the course. We also have an increased need for someone to coordinate the service-learning aspect of the program. We currently have 17 community partners. Limited instructional space is also an issue. Do we need a full-time coordinator for the 1st year experience? We also need to shore up departmental support across campus through getting more commitments to offer courses on a regular basis. Some of the current issues are exacerbated by the transition to the new curriculum. We still have to maintain the old curriculum for a period of time, requiring extra commitment of faculty and time.

What do we most need from senior administration? Ideas as possibilities – guaranteed pool of money to cover Honors needs within each Dean’s office. Get a MOU with each Dean about commitment to program. Could we get incentives for faculty to act as Bachelor’s Essays advisors – maybe put wording in FAM, or could be done at departmental level.

One desire is to get additional instructor lines in Honors, perhaps 4 lines, but this would require approval from Senate and then getting money from the Provost.

A final issue discussed was redesigning the diploma given by the Honors College. We would like it to have a more appropriate look and will generate some ideas. Trisha will send a copy of what is now given.