

Psi Chi/UPO
General meeting minutes: October 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 1732 on 22 October 2008.

- **Attendance:** Nicole and Carrie (from the exec board) were missing, and there were 14 regular members in attendance.

Dr. Ledger: Arts & Sciences theses

- In the College of Arts & Sciences (A&S), distinction for graduation can be in the form of “Distinction,” “High Distinction,” or “Highest Distinction”
 - Highest Distinction requires a thesis and a 3.92 GPA
 - The thesis must be approved by A&S... an Honors Thesis may not be sufficient (e.g. actual empirical research is needed, not just a lit review, for example... should be of *publishable* quality)
 - High Distinction requires a thesis and 3.85 GPA, *or* a 3.92 GPA without thesis
 - Distinction requires thesis and 3.50 GPA, *or* a 3.85 GPA without thesis
- Need to have a supervisor committee for your thesis
- Fill out a research prospectus with aid from your advisors
- Lots of work and revision will be expected
- The deadline is usually late March
- At the end, a thesis defense (i.e. “examination”) is required
- Talk to your professors early! Don’t do a door-in-the-face
 - Volunteering early is very helpful... this is foot-in-the-door

Dr. Flowers on UCARE

- At UNL, there is less disconnect between grad and undergrad students than at some peer institutions
 - Involvement in research early in college career is essential
- UCARE facilitates getting into research, and *you get paid for doing research!*
 - It is a two-year program:
 - Year one: Acquainting with the research process as a lab assistant
 - Year two: Starting an independent project
- UCARE was started with funds from Pepsi, and has grown a lot
 - Examples of projects: Contour plots to represent data for the blind
 - Graphing using musical notes
- UCARE projects could be of quality to be presented at conferences and be published
- Each professor, on average, can supervise at most one Year One and one Year Two student
 - Talk to professors early! Look at their research interests and their current research
 - If you read their papers, *this shows your initiative!*
- There are off-cycle applications available for extra funds, usually due in November
- *Main applications are usually due in February or March*

The meeting was adjourned at 1805.

Respectfully submitted,
Noah Weiss, Psi Chi Secretary