UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
316th Meeting
7 September 2012
1:30-3:30 PM, CL 110

APPROVED

Voting members present: Nailya Almagambetova (HHS), William Baker (UCC/LAS), Dave Ballantine (LAS), Greg Conderman (EDU), Michael Duffy (LIB), Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Tim Ryan (LAS), Scot Schraufnagel (LAS), Bart Sharp (BUS), and Honors students Ben Clark, Ben Donovan, John Price, and Collin Thompson

Voting members absent: Honors student Juliana Leprich

Ex-officio members present: Anne Birberick (Vice Provost) and Christopher Jones (Honors)

Ex-officio members absent: None

Others: Honors administrative team: Jes Cisneros, Joanne Ganshirt (Recording Clerk) and Vanessa Segundo

I. Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members
Jones and Sharp welcomed the committee. Introductions were done by each committee member.

II. Election of the Committee’s Faculty Chair
Schraufnagel/Price moved to name Sharp chair. Ballantine/Conderman moved to close nominations. There was no discussion. The motions passed.

III. Approval of Agenda
Conderman/Ballantine moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes from 27 April 2012
Ballantine/Conderman moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

V. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors Report
Jones gave a special welcome to Segundo. He is pleased have her join the Honors administrative team. He thanked Jacquie Norris, a graduate intern, for her help during the spring 2012 semester.

Jones reported the following positive enrollment information:
• The entering University Honors freshmen class for fall 2012 (the largest since 1987) stands at 226. The entering freshmen class in 2011 was 172 and 140 in 2010.

• The entering freshmen class has an average ACT score of 29, an average class rank of the top 12.5% of their high school graduating class, and average GPA of 3.96.

• The percentage of freshmen admitted on a provisional basis (because they fall short of one of the program’s admission criteria) has dropped dramatically from 64% in 2011 to 29% in 2012. The quality of the incoming class is significant when compared to the past.

• An additional 95 transfer students have been admitted for fall 2012. The average GPA for this group is 3.66.

• There are 162 students living in the “University Honors House” living-learning community within the New Residence Complex.

• Since fall 2010, the size of the program has grown from 861 students to 1,083 students (a 25.7% increase) and the number of minority students has increased from 122 students to 253 students (a 107% increase).

• Since fall 2011, the program has grown from 984 to 1,083 (10% increase) and the number of minority students has expanded from 163 to 253 (55.2% increase).

• It was a record year for University Honors Program with 173 honors graduates (2011-2012). It constitutes a significant increase from the previous year when there were 141 honors graduates.

Jones reported on the following initiatives:

• University Honors Study Abroad Travel Grant program (in strong collaboration with International Programs) was funded by Strategic Planning funds. Fifteen Honors students studied overseas and received funding through this program. These grants are continuing for spring and summer study abroad.

• Global Leadership and Philanthropy (GLAP) Camp for high-ability high school students was held in July. This camp was modeled on the HELP camp from last year. The Honors Program was lead sponsor working with NGOLD, International Programs, and LA&S External Programming. Twenty-five students participated. They and their parents provided very positive feedback. Four honors students helped at the camp. Jones gave special thanks to Julie Ann Read, who directed the camp.

• Based on a model at the College of William & Mary, the University Honors Summer Scholars Program was launched. The two scholars have started their blogs online. Jones encouraged committee members to visit the Honors Program website and read the blogs.
• The job search for a new colleague to advise students on prestigious national scholarships, fellowships, and academic awards and recognitions has begun. Two search committee meetings have been held. The committee is ready to start the interview process. Jones thanked Birberick for her support of the position. Jones said he is excited about this position, because it offers an opportunity for Honors Program to serve the entire campus community. The person selected for this position will also be a liaison to NIU’s Scholarship Office, honors societies on campus, and perform a range of other duties. Jones will keep the committee updated on the progress of the search.

• Relative to the 2011-2012 academic year, the number of stand-alone University Honors courses will nearly double during the 2012-2013 academic year. This would not be possible without resources, including strategic planning money and academic surcharge money. There are 12 upper-division Honors seminars and College of Health and Human Sciences courses being offered. There are 199 total Honors students (an average of 16.5 students per section) registered in these courses. There are 21 lower-division Honors courses including 17 general education, two UNIV 101, and two UNIV 105 sections. Enrollment in these courses stands at 455, with an average 21.6 students per course. Overall, these courses are servicing 61% of the University Honors student population. This is level is unprecedented in the program’s history.

Jones thanked those departments who provided on load or overload courses in fall 2012, including the Departments of Mathematical Sciences, English, Communication, History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Physics, Psychology, Anthropology, Geology, Kinesiology and Physical Education, Educational Psychology, and the Schools of Music, Art, Family, Consumer and Nutritional Science, Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, Nursing, and University Libraries.

Jones said there will be a similar variety of offerings for the spring 2013 semester with additional departments and schools involved.

Jones noted the University Honors Program was able to offer this number courses and fill them by advertising in the newspaper, sending e-mails to current students, hosting the course preview night and sending information to all new Honors freshmen via e-mail and regular mail. He thanked the Honors staff for all the help in reaching out and doing advising. Cisneros and Jones spoke with parents every day during orientation and were able to use that time to highlight course offerings to parents. The Honors Program also built collaborative ties with all the colleges and the Academic Advising Center. Lists of course availabilities were sent to advisors every day, and Honors advisors were sent to college advising locations as needed. Jones thanked Ganshirt for her work on these matters.
Advising was tightened this summer with fewer provisional students being admitted. The Lorado Taft Honors Freshman Orientation Retreat was modified. There were 197 freshmen, 14 staff, and 23 faculty members who took part in the retreat. He thanked Cisneros, Ganshirt, and the rest of the Honors administrative team on their important work throughout the summer.

- A new College of Engineering-University Honors Program collaborative effort was started. This program will allow high-ability CEET students who were not inclined to pursue honors education to graduate with University Honors. The program has been launched and dividends are being paid. An *NIU Today* article featured this program. This will be a model to help other colleges become more involved with the University Honors Program.

- A major recruitment effort, including expansion in merit scholarships; a new auto-awarding scholarship process; new University Honors website, new University Honors brochure, new University Honors video, a new Honors television spot featuring the Honors House, new University Honors tagline, new recruitment events, and new collaborations with campus partners have helped increase the awareness of the Honors Program and help attract a stronger freshman class.

- The traditional University Honors freshmen tuition waivers have been shifted to reward academic excellence and address the financial need of continuing University Honors students. Tuition waivers and scholarships were awarded to 62 University Honors students, including 18 Honors fellows and four Honors House leaders. Scholarship recipients were selected by a committee composed of Changnon, Ballantine and members of the University Honors Program administrative team.

- There have been numerous improvements made to the University Honors website and offices. All student forms have been updated and are now online. The Honors Program computer lab has been painted and rewired. New computers have been installed. (Jones thanked the Vice Provost’s office for the computers.) The Capstone library has been painted, as has the mural wall in the main office. Photographs of Honors students have been framed and placed through the office, as have two new bulletin boards. A display case has also been added to draw attention to the Honors Program’s awards. All of this was done to make the Honors Center more inviting and student-centered. There will also be a juried art contest to generate artwork for the walls of the Capstone library.

- The University Honors database is being significantly expanded and updated. Jones thanked Jessica Perez, office support specialist; Anne Quinlan, program advisor; and Ganshirt for their work on this initiative.

- *Honorable Mentions*, the website space for students to post their creative work, will continue this year. With the help of Duffy, Jones has recruited Professor Luke Krueger of the School Theatre and Dance to serve as faculty advisor to *Honorable Mentions*. Krueger will ensure that students have freedom to express themselves
while ensuring the Honors Program is well-represented in the public domain. He will serve as a source of advice, information, mentorship, and inspiration.

- If Honors students decide to launch a journal, Duffy has agreed to coordinate that effort.

- University Honors has been collaborating with approximately 25 different divisions, colleges, centers, programs or offices on campus, including the Division of International Programs and the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, which has been given significant support. During the current academic year, Jones especially wants to reach out to college deans and senates to offer information about the University Honors Program.

VI. Assistant Director’s Report

Cisneros made the following report:

- He was busy during the summer with orientation, the Taft Retreat, advising related activities, hourly scheduled appointments, and walk-in appointments. He is doing walk-in appointments to give the students the best support possible.

- He attended the first Honors Student Association (HSA) meeting of the year. He is the faculty advisor for this organization. Segundo also attended. The HSA is a student auxiliary group for the University Honors Program.

- He is working with Segundo, James Cohen (associate professor of Literacy Education), and Emily Prieto (director of the Latino Resource Center) to write for funding from MetLife.

- He worked at the summer open house in July. This is similar to those held throughout the academic year.

- He attended the Year 2 at NIU planning meetings and the event that was held this year. It was a good event with strong student turnout. The event was meant to address the needs of sophomore students.

- He is teaching an Honors section of EPFE 201.

- Several information sessions for transfer students are being conducted by Cisneros to create a stronger connection with students. Requirements of the University Honors Program and other Honors activities are covered in these sessions.
- He is working with the staff of the Office of Admissions to organize recruiting events at NIU’s satellite campuses. He is also working with staff of the College of Education to invite high school guidance counselors to campus for a recruiting visit.

- He is working with Rachel Xidis of University Relations on a special link button to be used on NIU web pages. This button could be used to link all other NIU web pages to the University Honors Program web page.

- He will be hosting a number of Capstone information sessions for students who will soon be starting the Capstone process. These sessions are not meant to replace Capstone advising, but will help to demystify the process.

- He met with Honors Fellow Alexa Warner to work on the University Honors Peer Mentor Program for freshmen.

- He presented the following enrollment numbers:
### Table 1

**ACT Scores and Class Rank for Incoming Freshman Honors Students**

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<td>Freshman Mean</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>27.06</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26.78</td>
<td>28.52</td>
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<td>Composite ACT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshman Mean</td>
<td>92.4</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>89.3</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>85.46</td>
<td>86.8</td>
<td>86.21</td>
<td>81.26</td>
<td>87.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Rank</td>
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### Table 2

**GPA for Incoming Transfer Honors Students**

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<tr>
<td>Mean Transfer GPA</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>3.74</td>
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<td>3.69</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>3.69</td>
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### Table 3

**Current Active Honors Enrollment by Part of Program**

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<tr>
<td>Currently pursuing LDH</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>577</td>
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<tr>
<td>Currently pursuing UDH</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>506</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1155</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>1083</td>
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### Table 4
Current Active Honors Enrollment by College

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<tr>
<td>LA&amp;S</td>
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<td>572</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>351</td>
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<td>420</td>
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<td>Business</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td>V&amp;PA</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>H&amp;HS</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>E&amp;ET</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>35</td>
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### Table 5
Students in Honors by Self-ID Race/Ethnicity

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Minority</strong></td>
<td>198</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>253</td>
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### Table 6
Students in Honors by Gender

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1154</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>1083</td>
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The large freshman class admitted this year is reflected in the total number of Lower Division University Honors students. The collaborative effort with the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET) has also yielded dividends. The number of CEET students in the University Honors Program has doubled since May 2012.

Sharp asked whether the Honors Program staff will reach the saturation point in terms of its advising operation. Cisneros said that issue is a concern. However, the burden is being eased by five University Honors Fellows (student peer advisors) who are assigned to students from a specific college. He noted, for example, if a CEET major wishes to make an advising appointment, there is one specific student advisor to advise CEET students. Cisneros concentrates his advising on new students, those completing Honors Capstones, and on difficult cases.

Baker asked if there is an area in the ethnicity table that Cisneros finds troublesome or would like to balance. Cisneros said the enrollment of Blacks and Asians in the Honors Program is low. The diversity centers for those groups have been contacted. Honors Program staff will continue to follow up with three ethnic diversity centers. Jones said the University Honors Program has reached out, helped sponsor the diversity center’s honor society induction ceremonies, expressed an interest in co-programming, and asked for help with recruiting. The minority population in the Honors Program has grown by 107% since fall 2010, but the numbers can and should improve. Jones stressed the Honors Program must reflect the campus it serves. He asked for any suggestions from committee members to help improve the minority enrollment.

Pohlman asked if the same data is available for graduates. Jones replied the information is available. Sharp said it would be interesting to see the attrition rate from Lower Division Honors completion to Upper Division Honors completion. Jones added the Honors Program is interested in customizing honors education at the Upper Divisions for the colleges with more professionally focused curricula. This direction would include looking at the Honors Capstone requirement in a more creative, disciplined-focused manner.

Ballantine asked if records are kept of graduates earning departmental honors. Jones said no. He would like to start collecting such information, because it would impact Vision 2020 goal of increasing the number of NIU students who graduate with honors by 50%. Ballantine said most departmental honors programs work well with University Honors. Jones said the Honors Program has worked well with departmental honors programs within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. However, he noted the situation could be improved when it comes to other colleges. Ballantine said any general description of the
Honors Program distributed to departments could include information about the departmental program.

VII. Assistant Director of Programming & Communication Report

Segundo presented the following written report:

1) Introduction of new member in the University Honors Program administrative team

Segundo will serve as the new Assistant Director of Programming & Communication; this position was formerly known as the “Program Coordinator,” formerly held by Emily Del Monoco.

Segundo’s responsibilities include program development related to academic and engaged learning opportunities, coordination of internal and external communication, alumni relations work, and serving as coordinator for the Honors House living-learning community.

Prior to joining the University Honors administrative team, Segundo’s previous employment includes serving as the Research and Project Specialist at NIU’s Latino Resource Center, Ambassador for the KnowHow2Go Campaign (Washington, D.C.), College Adviser for the Illinois College Advising Corps, and Instructional Assistant for Educational Talent Search.

2) 2012-2013 Programming and communication priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Honors Program</th>
<th>Honors House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Back Barbeque</td>
<td>New location! New Residential Hall Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUPer Wednesday</td>
<td>Move-in Assistance</td>
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<td>Career Workshop Series</td>
<td>Cluster Social Gatherings</td>
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<td>Judy Santacaterina</td>
<td>Kick-Off Event- Whirlyball Vernon Hills</td>
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<td>Communication Series</td>
<td>Dodgeball Tournament (Inter-House)</td>
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<td>Dennis Barsema Microfinance Series</td>
<td>Don’t Stress the Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alumni Lecture Series</td>
<td>Yoga Mondays</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Birthday Boxes</td>
<td>*Youth Development Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Huskie Alternative Break</td>
<td>*Service Learning Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*House leaders</td>
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Following her introduction, Segundo told committee members this opportunity is very humbling. Honors students are terrific and very driven, she added. She spent her summer going over information received about previous events held and trying to plan appropriate programming. There will be five Honors Fellows working with Segundo on
programming and communications. She said that they are vital to the Honors Program’s efforts in these areas.

Segundo said there is a need to provide services to upper-level students. She noted that events offered in the past were perceived as being for freshmen and sophomores.

Some events have already been held. The welcome back barbeque was a very successful event. Over 150 students arrived in the first hour. Games were offered for students to play, but they were more interested in talking with one another.

The first SOUPer Wednesday was a huge success. In the first 45 minutes 80 students arrived. Students had to be turned away as the food ran out. Those students who attended stayed for a long time talking with each other, student staff members and staff members. The majority of students who attended were freshmen. Jones noted there is a good feeling among the students this year. It has been an exciting start to the semester.

Turning to the new Honors House, Segundo said she has four Honors House leaders, and she could not be happier with them. They have worked really hard and are very excited about the new house.

The House Leaders did a great job assisting new students arriving for the Taft Retreat move into the Honors House. Many compliments were received including one from the University Police charged with assisting traffic control.

Segundo said she already received a very touching telephone call from the mother of an Honors freshmen retreat participant who wanted to let the Honors Program know how much her son had enjoyed the experience and how excited he was to be part of the program. The mother said her son was uncharacteristically excited about all the people that he had met and the opportunities that are available to him through the Honors Program.

Segundo and House Leaders are planning programming that will allow students to put the academic experiences to practical use. The House Leaders must create a community for residents. Future programming for Honors House residents is listed above.

Segundo is also teaching an Honors section of UNIV 101 and working on initiatives to get faculty more involved with the Honors events. Students have said they would like to have greater access to faculty outside the classroom.
Jones said Dave Changnon is continuing as Faculty Advisor to the Honors House. Nancy Castle, who had been a faculty advisor, is acting director of NGOLD. Thus, she will not be able to continue as an advisor. Jones requested any committee member who might be interested in being a faculty advisor or knows another faculty member who might like to be a faculty advisor to speak with him about it. Ballantine asked if the second faculty advisor should be from a different college. Jones said that would be the ideal. However, if a good colleague from LA&S would like to do it, that would be fine.

VIII. Additional Reports & Updates
Jones asked Pohlman if he wished to deliver a brief report on the new College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET)/University Honors initiative. Pohlman said that he had sent 156 invitations to CEET students eligible to participate in this initiative. To date, 25-30 students have submitted applications. Christopher Lloyd, Honors Fellow and CEET major, is working with Pohlman to be sure that students are completing the requirements. Pohlman added that mini-sections offered in several of the departments have had to increase the Honors allocation to accommodate the new students. He noted that transfer students will be a little harder to get into this program. This initiative is growing quickly, but there is still work to be done.

Jones told committee members about two study abroad initiatives. Both efforts are being pursued in collaboration with the Division of International Programs. The first is a freshman-only study abroad program in Montreal, Canada. A site visit will be done this semester. Hopefully, the program will be launched in the spring and delivered in early summer 2013. The program will consist of spending a week Montreal. This type of program, which is being supported through Vision 2020 funding, is meant to get students interested in study abroad and is a growing trend at universities across the country.

Jones is also working to establish a study abroad program at The Hague in The Netherlands for University Honors and Honors-eligible students. Representatives from The Hague University visited last spring. Jones, Deb Pierce of International Programs, and J.D. Bowers of the Department of History will conduct a site visit in The Netherlands in late November.

IX. New Business
A. Setting deadlines for the committee’s business this year
Sharp reminded committee members of the awards and grants made each year. These include the Enhance Your Education (EYE) Grants, Summer Scholars, Great Professor, Ganshirt Award, and, in future years, the Outstanding Alumni Award. He asked if there were any objections to changing the deadlines for each
of these. He did note the EYE Grant deadline was recently modified. Thus, he is hesitant to adjust it again.

Committee members asked if the Great Professor deadline could be set for the end of the calendar year and the selection made at the February meeting. Pohlman asked if the award winner could be named in December and then have students take a course with that professor in the spring. Jones said he likes that idea but, because of scheduling deadlines, the course would not able to be offered until the fall semester. The committee members agreed that the Great Professor Award deadline should be the end of December.

Ballantine asked what the deadline is for the new Ganshirt Award. Sharp said there currently is not a deadline, but it would be appropriate to set one. Ballantine said a similar deadline should be set as for the Great Professor Award if the Ganshirt Award is to be made at the Honors Day ceremony.

Jones reminded committee members that two University Honors Summer Scholars were selected last year. He encouraged everyone to look at the online blogs and recipient profiles. Referring to the application deadline, Sharp said students will need to have enough time to put together a proposal while receiving the necessary information regarding the Summer Scholars Program. Ballantine suggested setting the deadline for the week after spring break, so the awards can be made at the April Honors Committee meeting.

Jones said discussion was held last semester about the Summer Scholar recipients making presentations of their work. This could be done during a committee meeting, so the faculty could hear the results. Price suggested making the new awards at the same time as the presentations are made. Ballantine said he is concerned the addition of Summer Scholar presentations to an Honors Committee meeting would be difficult because the agendas for these meetings are usually full. Instead he suggested the presentations be made during SOUPer Wednesday because it would provide an opportunity for students to learn about the Summer Scholars program. Pohlman added the presentation should be made in time for others to learn about the program before preparing and submitting proposals.

B. **Guidelines for Joanne Ganshirt Award for Outstanding Service to University Honors**

Jones told committee members this award was created least year in honor of Ganshirt. There are currently no guidelines for selection, but it is meant to be presented to someone who has made a sustained and significant impact on the
University Honors Program. Conceivably, the recipient could be a colleague, a fellow Honors staff member, alumni, or community member. A subcommittee with members Donovan, Ballatine, Price, Ganshirt, and Sharp was formed.

C. Working Groups
Sharp asked if the committee saw a need to have working groups. In the past there had been a diversity group. Is that needed again? Cisneros said he did not think so. He said the working group had not made real progress in the past, and the University Honors administrative team already had a series of steps that it was pursuing to reach out to the ethnic diversity centers.

Jones said that he and the program would need help in improving assessment practices. He reported that David Changnon has kindly volunteered to serve as chair of an assessment subcommittee. Cisneros will also participate. Pohlman and Ryan volunteered to join the subcommittee as well.

Following last year’s practice, Jones said there would need to be a subcommittee to select students who apply in spring 2013 for University Honors scholarships and tuition waivers for the 2013-2014 academic year. Conderman, Segundo, and Almagambetova volunteered for this subcommittee.

Jones asked if there were any other topics that should be the focus of working groups or subcommittees, such as transfer students or how to engage, thank and support faculty. Jones noted his desire to pursue the idea of honors faculty status, which he discussed when he applied for the director’s position. Ballantine, Duffy, Sharp, and Donovan volunteered to form a working group to work on honors faculty status and other faculty-related issues.

Segundo asked to revisit the diversity working group issue. She expressed that that such a working group could prove helpful. Jones asked what Segundo what she had in mind given the perspective Cisneros shared earlier in the meeting. Cisneros said in the past University Honors did a more focused recruiting effort of minority students. A big part of the recruiting effort was staff working across campus and making its name known at diversity centers, attending Diversity Day, and other such initiatives. Jones asked Segundo if she wanted faculty to be information sources or to go out and represent the program on diversity matters. Segundo said perhaps it would be better to work on the matters within the Honors administrative team. Jones suggested that he, Segundo and Cisneros discuss the matter more and report back to the committee at the next meeting.
D. University Honors Student Advisory Committee Proposal
Jones asked the committee for permission to move forward on creating a student advisory committee. Most honors colleges and programs have such groups. The committee would consist of six upper-level classmen representing each college, one freshman, one transfer student, one Honors Student Association (HAS) member and one resident of the Honors House. He asked how the first eight members would be selected because HSA and the House residents would be able to select their own representatives. Jones asked for feedback so a proposal could be created.

Pohlman asked what the committee would do. Jones said the students would be a leadership group that serves as a liaison between the faculty and staff and the Honors Program’s growing student population. The committee would serve as a sounding board for students, could assist with assessment, and could sponsor and host student-centered events. The Honors Program currently has student leaders serving as University Honors Fellows (student staff), but these individuals are chosen by the Honors administrative team. Jones said he saw a benefit in a group of student leaders (the proposed student advisory committee) being chosen by a different way.

Price said each college has a student advisory committee and suggested those students select the college representatives for the Honors Program student advisor committee. Jones asked if the committee thought freshmen and transfer students should have representatives. Ballantine said he thinks it is important to have such representatives because each group has particular interests and needs.

Price asked if the elections could be held at SOUPer Wednesday. Ballantine noted the elections would have to be held early in the year, so the representatives are still within the cohort they are elected to represent. Price asked if this committee would for next academic year. Jones said he would like to have one for the current year although he noted it would have to be selected according to a timeline than would likely be different in subsequent years.

E. Ideas for Engaging and Supporting Faculty
Sharp asked how the University Honors Program could get faculty more engaged. With the growing number of courses, there are more faculty involved in teaching. Ballantine said this is a topic the Honors faculty working group could discuss. Getting faculty engaged should be a big part of the discussion for making faculty “Honors faculty.” Information from those discussions could be brought to the full
committee. Birberick suggested this topic is something a student advisory committee could discuss as to what role the faculty members should have within the Honors Program experience.

Pohlman asked how many of the faculty hired have been told about the University Honors Program. Jones said he made a request to deliver a presentation at the university’s new faculty orientation, but was told that the agenda was already too full and the plan was to move to a different format in the near future anyway. Jones noted that the University Honors Program would have a presence at NIU’s upcoming Teaching Expo.

Ballantine noted that if each department has a designated Honors faculty member, that person could be a mentor for new departmental faculty. Until that happens, Jones asked if informational events should be held in the Honors Center with refreshments offered. Committee members agreed this might be a good idea. Sharp said it is important to get this designation, so other faculty members will know who to contact within each department.

F. **University Honors Course Transformation Initiative**
   This listed agenda item was tabled to a future meeting.

X. **Adjournment**
   Ballantine/Ryan moved to adjourn. The Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting is Friday, October 5, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 110.