UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
327th Meeting
February 7, 2014
1:30-3:30 PM, CLB 110

I. Welcome Back
   Introduce Tim Ryan and Miracle Diala

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2013

IV. Staff Reports
   A. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
   B. Assistant Director of Academics and Advising
   C. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors

V. Additional Reports & Updates
   A. Assessment Subcommittee

VI. Old Business
   A. Honors Faculty status
   B. HONS Course Designation

VII. New Business
   A. Outstanding Alumni Award
   B. Great Professor Award
   C. Portz Scholarship from NCHC
   D. NCUR Funding
   E. Summer Scholars

VIII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Friday, March 7, 2013
University Honors Committee Meeting
327th Meeting
February 7, 2014

(APPROVED)

Voting members present: Patricia Braun (HHS), Dave Changnon (LAS), Michael Duffy (LIB), Nick Pohlman (CEET), Tim Ryan (LAS), Bart Sharp (BUS), Masih Shokrani (UCC/HHS) John Evar Strid (EDUC) and Honors students Miracle Diala, Rachel Lapidus, Luis Lopez, and Jerrell Ross

Voting members absent: Dave Ballantine (LAS) and Honors student Dan Jeffries.

Ex-officio members present: None

Ex-officio members absent: J. D. Bowers (Honors) and Michael Kolb (Vice Provost)

Others: Honors staff Jes Cisneros, Joanne Ganshirt (Recording Clerk)

IX. Welcome Back
Tim Ryan, returning from a sabbatical, and new student Miracle Diala introduces themselves to the committee.

X. Approval of Agenda
Lapidaus asked that Student Report be added to the Additional Reports portion of the meeting. Pohlman/Braun moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed.

XI. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2013
Pohlman/Braun moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

XII. Staff Reports
A. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
Due to the absence of Bowers, there was no report.

B. Assistant Director of Academics and Advising
Cisneros gave the following report:

- He has been busy with advising appointments. It has been even busier because a last-minute change in the in-course contract procedures requiring those requesting a contract to meet with him. This change will be fully implemented for the fall semester but students must meet with Cisneros the semester before the course to get permission.

- He will be scheduling Capstone Overview Sessions in the near future.
• Capstone proposals are being submitted and is busy signing them.

• He will be giving an overview to some of the students on campus through the China program.

• A Capstone digitization process is being developed with the help of the staff of the library. Starting this semester, all new Capstones will need to be submitted digitally. Pohlman asked if the new Capstones will be able to be uploaded directly to the library system. He was told that is the plan but the process has not been finalized.

• Cisneros will be spearheading an outreach for native recruiting. He will also be working the Academic Advising Center to identify undecided majors who are eligible for the Honors Program.

• He presented the enrollment numbers for the beginning of the semester (see below). Pohlman asked that once a semester the number of graduates by college be included.
## ENROLLMENT BY PART OF PROGRAM

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C. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
In absence of Goode, the following written report was submitted:

1. Honors Tuition Waivers
   a. New application is live and the deadline is Feb 28th at noon.
   b. Met with 10 students one-on-one through scheduled appointments as well as at least another 10 walk-ins.

2. Marjorie Meanger Honors Scholarship ($500.00)
   a. Awarded $250.00 each to Cody LaPlante (Education major) and Jennifer Murphy (Business Major).

3. Honors Scholarship workshop (January 29th at 5 p.m.)
   a. 77 students signed in, but more may have been in attendance.
   b. Anne Hardy from the Scholarship Office and Deb Rempfer from Student Financial Aid presented to the students to help clarify funding overall.

4. The Harry S, Truman Scholarship Foundation
   a. Met with Sarah Trygstad and Ben Donovan regarding the opportunity.
   b. Sarah is applying in the 2014 competition and Ben will apply in 2015.

5. The Morris K. and Stewart L. Udall Foundation
   a. Met with Sarah Trygstad and Nicki Sablotny

6. Honors Scholars Presentation
   a. Tentatively scheduled for April 17th 4-6 p.m.

7. Lincoln Laureate
   c. Lincoln Laureate lecture will be in April and the service project is being solidified.

8. Admissions
   a. Recently they decided to have 2 browsing fairs for perspective students and their families for each visit.
   b. Worked with Honors Fellows to coordinate student coverage.

9. Website
   a. Updated the HSA exec board web page
   b. Posted summer scholars fourth blog
   c. Updated Scholarship application categories and requirements

10. Hazing Prevention Taskforce
    a. Coordinated by SILD
    b. Campus partners focusing on hazing education to prevent hazing.
    c. Working on a list of objectives to determine the committees role with sports clubs, Greek fraternities and sororities, as well as
organizations that are not SA recognized who we suspect may haze.

Sharp asked what the plans were to fill the open Assistant Director for Communication and Programing. He was told an intern was in place to complete the programming tasks for the remainder of the semester. A search will be conducted in the future for a full-time person.

XIII. Additional Reports & Updates

A. Assessment Subcommittee
Changnon informed committee members the assessment subcommittee met in January with representatives from the College of Education who have offered to write an assessment plan. The group looked at all aspects of Honors Program with the idea it will be a more global program. Courses and programming will be analyzed. It was a good first meeting to get the ball rolling.

B. Student Report
Lapidus told committee members she has received requests to have more social programming and less academic programming. Students would also like to have lounge space like the one in the old Honors House in Douglas Hall. Several students also said upper-division Honors students should be required to take a writing working to prepare for the Capstone.

Lopez said the Honors Student Association would like to have an Honors Student Day that would allow Honors students to have a fun day. This could possibly be linked with Don’t Stress the Test.

Changnon asked if students would be willing to pay for social activities themselves. Budget restraints may limit what the program can offer in that respect. Lapidus said she thought $10 would be the limit. She added that if transportation was provided students would be more likely to pay for less expensive tickets to events such as plays. Changnon asked if these events would be to open up to all students. Lapidus said that was the idea.

XIV. Old Business

A. Honors Faculty status
Pohlman/Changnon moved to approve the latest version of the proposal. Pohlman said he likes that the difference in new and old faculty has been distinguished. He asked where the proposal will go from the committee. Changnon said he doesn’t
think the proposal should need academic committee approval. It will probably end up with the provost. He doesn’t see why there should be a problem. Sharp said there may be some push back from colleges or departments. Braun asked when it would be effective. Sharp said it would be implemented as soon as the final approval is received. Changnon said it would have to be a full academic year so it may even be 2015-16. A workshop will need to be planned in order to get faculty informed and designated properly. Cisneros, Braun and Shokrani volunteered to plan this workshop.

Pohlman/Braun moved to take vote. The proposal was approved.

B. HONS Course Designation
There was no further discussion in the absence of Bowers.

XV. New Business
A. Outstanding Alumni Award
Sharp said students have been looking for candidates using social media. In a week or two there should be enough information to send to all committee members. The process will be the same as the last time award winners were selected. A subcommittee will look at the alumni list, create a shortlist for finalists and have the full committee select recipients for the next two years.

B. Great Professor Award
The award is presented at the Honors Recognition Ceremony. This year it is April 13. Sharp said the process for getting the award announced and nominations made should be started soon.

C. Portz Scholarship from NCHC
There are no applications

D. NCUR Funding
With Bowers’ absence no information was available.

E. Summer Scholars
Ganshirt told the committee that up to four summer scholars could be named for this summer. Sharp said deadline should be end of March so scholars can be named at April meeting. Lopez asked for more clarification of the program. This is for students to apply for the summer before Capstone completion that will lead to final capstone project.
Changon asked about McKearn Scholars. Cisneros said the program will be scaled back from last year but nothing has been finalized.

XVI. **Adjournment**

Pohlman/Braun moved to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 7 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 110.
Honors Faculty Status Proposal

The following is a proposed framework for recognizing various designations of “Honors Faculty” in the pursuit of three primary goals. First, we want to take reasonable steps towards confirming that all faculty involved with Honors education at NIU (through teaching standalone courses, teaching mini-sections, overseeing in-course contracts, overseeing capstone projects, etc.) are of the highest caliber. Second, we want to offer recognition, affirmation, and encouragement to those faculty members who have persistently offered good and faithful service to the Honors program, whether through classroom teaching, service on the faculty Honors Committee, or other avenues. Third, we would like to encourage the formation of a cohesive, interdisciplinary corps of outstanding educators with a shared identity focused on continuing to improve the Honors experience at NIU.

Once fully implemented, those faculty members who have sought and received Honors Faculty status will represent the population of faculty who are eligible to teach Honors courses, mini-sections, and seminars, and to oversee capstone projects and in-course contracts. Exceptions to this requirement which may be necessary due to resource constraints and the availability of qualified faculty would be made at the discretion of the University Honors Program. Over time we would strongly encourage the various colleges to incorporate Honors Faculty status as a meaningful criterion in retention, tenure, and promotion decisions.

Faculty members will be responsible for applying to receive provisional Honors Faculty status, or to receive a “promotion” in status, using forms and procedures which will need to be developed. An annual review of all Honors Faculty will be conducted to ensure that all those with status are continuing to meet the requirements, and to confirm the qualifications of faculty who have applied for status. The review will be conducted by a working group consisting of at least three University Honors Committee members who will review current and prospective Honors Faculty with respect to the criteria below and determine if they qualify to gain or retain the status.

Two distinct designations are proposed:

**Provisional Honors Faculty Status**

This initial designation is available to offer a path for new faculty members, or those newly interested in contributing to the Honors program, to join the ranks of the Honors Faculty. The requirements for Provisional Honors Faculty status would be:

- Attendance at a faculty seminar, to be developed by the Honors Program, which explains both the bureaucratic elements of the various Honors offerings as well as the underlying pedagogical foundation of the Honors educational process.
• A written statement of interest in becoming involved with the University Honors Program in some capacity
• A letter of support from the department chair affirming the qualifications of the candidate and their availability for Honors teaching

**Full Honors Faculty Status**

This designation is intended for those faculty members who have demonstrated a sustained, high quality involvement in the Honors program. The requirements for Full Honors Faculty status would be to have **completed the Honors Program seminar at least once in the previous five years**, and the achievement of **one or more of the following in the previous two years**:

• Teaching **two or more** Honors courses or mini sections, with an average course evaluation (from the Honors students) of 4/5 or greater
• Service on the University Honors Committee
• Oversight of **two or more** Honors in-course contracts or capstone projects
• Receipt of an Honors curriculum development grant
• Development of a new Honors course