UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
330th Meeting
April 25, 2014
1:30-3:30 PM, CLB 110

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Approval of Minutes from April 4

III. 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

IV. Additional Reports & Updates
A. Assessment Subcommittee
B. Student Report

V. Old Business
A. Proposed Argentina Study Abroad

VI. New Business
A. Award of EYE Grants
B. Outstanding Alumni Award

VII. Adjournment
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
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Approved 9/5/2014

Voting members present: Dave Ballantine (LAS), Patricia Braun (HHS), Dave Changnon (LAS), Michael Duffy (LIB), Masih Shokrani (UCC/HHS) and Honors students Miracle Diala, Rachel Lapidus, and Luis Lopez.

Voting members absent: John Evar Strid (EDUC) and Honors students Daniel Jeffries and Jerrell Ross.

VIII. Approval of Agenda
Changnon/Ballantine move to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

IX. Approval of Minutes from April 4
Braun/Lapidus moved to approve the minutes as passed. The motion passed with one abstention.

X. Staff Reports
D. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
Bowers made the following report:

   a. No KNOWN retirements
   b. J. Goode’s salary has been added to our base budget (off of a temporary line as of 2015)
   c. Have requested to fill AD for Programming and Marketing vacancy
   d. Have requested to fill Program Advisor vacancy
      i. increased position to .75
      ii. .50 will be advising (maintain files, database, etc.)
      iii. .25 will be Writing and Career Workshops
   e. Anticipated approval or deferral by mid-May

2. Scholarships
   a. We awarded $196,195.53 in scholarship, tuition waivers, and awards to 68 students
   b. We currently have 10 confirmed admissions for University Scholars
      i. Another seven could still accept (May 1 deadline)
ii. Three withdrew for other offers (Baylor, UW-Madison, U of I)

c. There is still the Regents Award and the Faculty Fund Awards to be allocated
   i. these are held in reserve to assist late admits, transfers and returning with financial need.
   ii. Slated to go to HHS students in 2014-15 (rotate by college, by year)

d. Need to rename the “Continuing Student Award” to create brand
   i. Suggestions?

3. Study Abroad 2014
   a. China—had only two students sign up; will not run in 2014. Braun asked why students didn’t want to go. Bowers said cost was part of the reason.
   b. The Hague—14 students, Le Moyne College as partner
   c. Montreal—7 students
   d. Ghana—6 students
   e. All total we have awarded $22,500 in travel support to 21 students

4. Study Abroad 2015
   a. Submitting renewal paperwork for The Hague, China, Montreal
      i. China
         1. New approach; more outreach to faculty with specific teaching areas
         2. More marketing and engaged approach; active program leader
         3. What should the focus be?
            a. Environmental and Health Sciences
            b. History and Culture (Life, Literature, Customs)
            c. Government and Economy
            d. Other options?
         4. Begin in September with SA Fair
         5. Deadline of Feb. 15 for final registration
   b. Submitting NEW proposals for Mendoza (Argentina) and Sulimanye (Iraq)-AUIS. The proposal for Argentina will be discussed later in the meeting. The Iraq partnership is due to the visit from Dawn Dekle, president of the American University of Iraq. Bowers and Brad Bond, dean of the Graduate School, will visit the school in the fall.
   c. Will partner with Tanzania
d. We will go to Six Continents in SP (Iraq) and SU (all others) 2015.
e. Working with SAO and Intl Affairs to see if advisory levels can be adjusted to permit the Iraq program

5. CMT-CI-NIU US and China, China and the US Program 2014
   a. CMT and CI will bring 20 students and 4 faculty to campus 06-24 July
   b. Honors Exchange
   c. Seeking faculty to teach threads of program

6. McKearn Fellows
   a. Summer 2013 (10 Fellows, all University Honors)
   b. Summer 2014 (5 Fellows, all University Honors)
      i. Ken Barnett, Shekinah Bergman, Zach Howard, Rachel Lapidus, Lexie Williams
      Bowers said these five students will replace the five who are graduating in May. All of these returning fellows will be mentors to the new cohort selected in spring 2015.
   c. Program 2014-2018
      i. Will select 10 after applications in October for formal entry into program in January 2015
      ii. Will advertise and promote at Taft
         1. Requirements
         2. Credentials, activities, etc.
         There has been $700,000.00 allotment for this four-year program. If it works then the funding should become permanent. Students selected in the spring will receive a $5,000 grant for study abroad. They will also get access to research and other special privileges.

7. University Scholars
   a. Will forming them into a cohort for branding, activities, and engagement
   b. There are roughly 40 on campus at any given time.
      Bowers said Jeff Kamholz, sophomore Honors student, will work on this project. He is a University Scholar and McKearn Fellow.

8. University Honors Fellows and House Leaders
   a. Have been selected for 2014-15
   b. House Leaders: Katy Voight and Charles Moore
   c. Honors Fellows: Jarrett Wolske, Elaine Rodriguez, Noemi Rodriguez, Lexie Williams, Luis Lopez (all continuing); Ben Donovan, Sarah Trygstad, Jerrell Ross, Roxana Moraga, Jennifer Grafton, Usman Beg, and Juliana Leprich (new).

9. UNIV 101 Fall 2014
a. Two sections: Rode, Admin Team
b. 15 weeks, common reading, “research ready”, “leadership”, scholarship
c. Exciting partnership
10. Website Revisions
a. Having a new website designed and developed for a cost of $3,000
b. Specific pages for our on-line journal (to be renamed The Luminary), faculty, study abroad, donors, giving, newsletter, and more.
c. Suggestions and ideas to Kristin Skells
11. Community College Partnerships
a. In progress; nothing new to report, but we are building the capacity and the foundations
12. High School Outreach/Recruiting
a. Sycamore High School on April 30
b. DeKalb High School on May 12
c. Partnership meeting with U-46 Streamwood High School (World Languages and International Studies Academy) in development
d. Global Leadership and Philanthropy Camp (June 2014) Third year
13. Next faculty summit (Date: TBD)
   a. New interdisciplinary GenEd courses
   b. Assignments and University Honors—Using the AAC&U Rubrics
   c. Assessing University Honors courses

E. Assistant Director of Academics and Advising

Cisneros presented the following report:

• Enrollment numbers continue to increase but are always fluid. There is a large minority enrollment which may be partially attributed to the diversity of the Honors Program student staff.

• He has been in contact with Veteran’s Services because the Honors Program has a lot of veterans in the program.

• He continues to have a heavy advising schedule. This a busy time for advising.

• He visited Kishwaukee College with a representative from admission. He met with a dozen students and the honors director. The visit was to get these students excited about what NIU and the Honors Program can offer
them. Jennifer Grafton, Honors student and Kishwaukee alum, also attended the session.

- He worked at the NIU Open House on April 18. He conducted three breakout sessions were well attended. The entire open house had a large number of attendees.

- Assessment work continues. He is working with three staff members from the College of Education and Assessment Services to get feedback. The assessment will look at LEAP goals, administrative assessment and other areas to meet national best practices.

- He was involved in the selection process for Honors scholarships.

- He chaperoned the all-Honors trip to the Field Museum in Chicago on April 5.

- He will represent the Honors Program at Diversity Day on May 3. There will be a breakout session and an information booth on the main floor.

- He was involved with the Bold Futures workshops and attended the wrap up event.

- He worked at the Honors Recognition Ceremony on April 13.

- Planning for the freshman Taft Retreat has started. Changes are being made to make this an opportunity to instill the culture of the Honors Program on the new students. This is an opportunity that can’t be missed the students must attend the retreat and alumni remember this experience fondly. Peer mentoring will be a big part of the retreat.

- Orientation will be starting in June. There will be three students to help with summer advising. There have been some changes made to the daily format and adjustments are being made.

- There are still a lot of openings in Honors courses.
### APRIL 2014

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Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors

Goode presented the following report:

1. Honors Scholars Presentation
   a. April 17 at 4-6 p.m. (Octavio Escalante, Elliott Ihm, and Lauren Nale presented)
   b. Introduced the 2014-2015 Honors Scholars
      i. Natalie Cincotta, Joel Dennison, Juliana Leprich, Luke Martin
   c. Acknowledged Scholarship recipients and gave them their award letters
      i. 69 award recipients of either the Kovacevich, Noreen, Maibach, Massey, Continuing Tuition Waiver, house Leader, and University Honors Fellow.

The event went really well and packed with students. This was good because Anne Birberick, Vice Provost, attended and she got to see a lot of Honors students participating.

2. Honors Tuition Waivers
   a. List of awards to be shared with the Financial Aid office, Admissions, and the Foundation. Scholarship offers to students will be “rewrapped” to make the best use of scholarship dollars. Goode said this process will change for next year. All information will need to be given to the above offices by early January.

3. Honors Day
a. Read remarks and attended the event and the reception afterwards
4. Breakfast and Lecture with Dawn Dekle
5. Attended the SPS Awards Ceremony
6. Advising Dean’s Retention Group on behalf of Bowers
7. Met with John and Cassandra McKearn along with Bowers and Honors students.
8. Mortar Board—Co-advisor
   a. Attended the Faculty Reception
   b. Received the flower shipment for the event
   c. Confirmed flower shipment for the spring Undergraduate Commencement ceremony
9. Bold Futures – Big Bold Event
   a. Attended the final Big Bold Jazz event to see the final culmination of the workshops.
10. Adela De La Torre Variety Show
    a. Judged the student competition and Greg Sassi, and Honors student, won the competition
11. Website
    a. Updated Honors Scholars Page (Unpublished)
12. Hazing Prevention Taskforce (Coordinated by SILD)
    a. Committee has decided to conduct focus groups with athletics, band, Greek organizations, and campus organizations to determine what the general perception of hazing is for students across campus
    b. Hazing Prevention Week September 22-26
13. Scholarship Workshop
    a. Rhodes, Gates, Marsha, and Truman
    b. April 8 at 5:00 p.m.
14. Off-Campus and Non-Traditional Student Services office-Sub-Cultures on Campus: Non-Traditional Students
    a. Topics Covered:
       i. Definition of a non-traditional student
       ii. Challenges faced by non-traditional students
       iii. Unique needs of non-traditional students
       iv. Campus services available for non-traditional students
       v. Observations about non-traditional students (their thoughts on education, socializing with other NIU students, what are they involved in at NIU, etc.)
       vi. How staff can best serve this student population
XI. Additional Reports & Updates
C. Assessment Subcommittee
Cisneros said the most recent iteration of goals and mission and vision will be forwarded to rest of subcommittee for feedback.

D. Student Report
Referring to the upcoming Taft Retreat, Diala said the students he has talked to said they did not like to be lectured to and that is what they felt Taft was. He suggested talking to Honors Fellows to try to solve this problem. At the last meeting, Diala mentioned having Honors House community advisors work on getting residents more involved. He asked if this will done in conjunction with the new house leaders. Bowers said the house leaders will be given this information when they go through formal training.

XII. Old Business
A. Proposed Argentina Study Abroad
Bowers asked if committee members had any objections to part or the entire proposal. He said surveys have shown that students interested in doing study abroad in Toledo, Spain, are not the same as those who want to do study abroad in South America. Sharp said this proposal could also include agribusiness affected by climate change since it was focused on the Argentina wine industry. Bowers said this is the type of idea that is being considered. Global NIU is meant to expand the types of exposure of different disciplines in study abroad. There were no objections to the proposal.

XIII. New Business
C. Award of EYE Grants
Committee members had two Enhance Your Education Grants to consider.

Ballantine/Lapidus moved to approve the first proposal for $1,000. Following a brief discussion, motion passed.

Ballantine/Shokrani moved to approve this grant for $1,000. Following much discussion the motion was denied. The grant was not approved.

D. Outstanding Alumni Award
Sharp apologized for not getting the information together in time for the meeting. The working group will continue the project during the summer and a vote will be taken in September.
Duffy announced he is rotating off the committee after nine years. Sarah McHone-Chase will be replacing him. Committee members thanked him for his years of service.

Changnon said he wanted to acknowledge the amount and quality of work done by the Honors Program staff this academic year. He said they have done an incredible job.

XIV. **Adjournment**

Pohlman/Braun moved to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.