University Honors Committee Meeting  
November 1, 2013  
325th Meeting  
(APPROVED 12/6/13)

Voting Members Present: Scott Balcerzak (LAS), Dave Ballantine (LAS), Dave Changnon (LAS), Beth McGowan (LIB/for Michael Duffy), Nick Pohlman (EET), Bart Sharp (BUSE), Masih Shokrani (UCC/HHS), John Eric Strid (EDUC), and Honors students Daihee Cho, Dan Jefferies, Rachel Lapidus, Luis Lopez, and Jerrell Ross.

Voting Members Absent: Patricia Braun (HHS).

Ex-officio Members Present: J. D. Bowers (Honors) and Michael Kolb (Vice Provost Office).

Ex-officio Members Absent: None

Others: Honors staff Jes Cisneros, Joanne Ganshirt (Recording Clerk), Jason Goode, and Vanessa Segundo; and external reviewers Joel Schwartz and Art Spisak.

I. Welcome
Sharp welcomed committee members to the meeting. He announced the business portion of the meeting would be brief. The remainder of the meeting time would be spent talking to the external reviewers.

II. Approval of Agenda
Pohlman/Ballantine move to accept the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from Sept. 13, 2013
The minutes had been approved via e-mail. Sharp confirmed this approval one last time with committee members.

IV. Staff Reports
A. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
Bowers presented the following written report

1. Five Continents—University Honors Global Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>N. America</th>
<th>S. America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana ('14)</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Global Justice</td>
<td>Discover Montreal</td>
<td>No program yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania ('15)</td>
<td></td>
<td>E-21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Scholarship Committee
   a. Lincoln Laureate: Sarah Stuebing, Biology
      i. President’s Reception, Nov 4 at 3 pm
         Bowers congratulated Cho as a finalist for the Lincoln Laureate. Ballantine asked about the award ceremony. Bowers said the official ceremony will be held in Springfield on November 2. The president will hold a reception on Monday, November 4 to recognize the recipient Sarah Stuebing and all the finalists.
   b. NCHC Student of the Year: nomination did not result in selection
   c. Presidential Scholars
      i. Will require an essay and interview
      ii. Deadline is Dec. 15
      iii. Interviews on February 1

3. Alumni and Mentoring
   a. Mentoring Awards Dinner (Nov. 5)
      i. Colleen McLaughlin
      ii. Robin Kelley
   b. Externship
      i. Jan 6-10, 12 students, full 40-hr. work week
   c. Maibach Lecture
      i. Chris Caine
   d. Weekly SOUPer Wednesdays
      i. Attendance is declining; plan of action is being developed to reverse this
   e. Senior Class Gift
      i. Lauren Nale and Chris Lloyd
      ii. Taft II Retreat

4. Outreach
   a. President Baker’s visit to University Honors
   b. External Review
      i. Report due to us in December
   c. Internal NIU Recruitment
      i. Teach House, UNIV 101 Classes (Dawson), Exploring Majors House, AAC Recruitment Evening

5. Community Colleges
   a. Kishwaukee and Highland Valley as partners
   b. Community College Recruiting Plan

6. Future Items (Under Development)
   a. Finalize CEET Program Details for Spring 2014
   b. Honors Faculty Status
   c. HONS course designation
B. **Assistant Director of Academics and Advising**

Cisneros made the following report:

- General, Upper-Division, and Capstone advising duties continued at a busy clip

- Made a presentation regarding orientation for special (honors) populations at Midwest First Year Experience conference

- Made a presentation to NIU’s Supporting Opportunities for Latinos group regarding the benefits of our University Honors Program

- Helped coordinate two workshops for students applying for Honors EYE-grants and other monies.

- Attended Maibach breakfast and lecture luncheon event

- Helped coordinate University Honors’ participation in Oct. 14th Open House. Tables, break-out session panel presentations, etc.

- Emceed during Honors Course Preview Night

- Spent time working on Lorado Taft Retreat for graduating seniors

- Met with community college colleagues from Heartland Community College and Kishwaukee College

- Re-started NIU native recruiting efforts

- Spent time working on recruitment strategies for Honors-qualified freshmen and transfer students

- Participated in Honors volleyball matches events

C. **Assistant Director of Programming and Communication**

Segundo presented the following written report:

**Programming Summary**

**University Honors Program**

*SOUPer Wednesday*

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Alumni

Speakers: Norm Goldstein, David Hochberg, Andrew Headley, Sherly Larsen, and Janet Pucino

*Special Appearance: First Lady, Dr. Dana Stover*
Attendance: Average 60-70

*Dennis Barsema Microfinance Series*
October 10 and October 24
Attendance: 23 students per session

*Alumni College Homecoming 2013*
Saturday October 12, 2013
Attendance: Approximately 100

*Volleyball with the Doctors*
October 15, 2013
Attendance: 10 students and 4 faculty

*Juried Art Competition Selection*
Thursday, October 17, 2013

*Birthday Box Fundraiser*
Friday, October 18, 2013
Attendance: Approximately 90 customers

*Social Justice Conference*
Saturday, October 19, 2013
Attendance: 130 students/faculty, 12 facilitators, and 15 volunteers

*Course Preview Night*
Tuesday, October 29, 2013
Attendance: 80 students and 21 faculty

**Honors House**

*Taco Thursday*
Thursday, October 10, 2013
Speakers: Julia Spears (OSEEL) and Joyce Keller (Career Services)
Attendance: 20 students

*Floor Wars Celebration at the Montemayor Ranch*

*Saturday, October 26, 2013*
Attendance: 20 students

*Haunted House at the Egyptian Theater*
Thursday, October 31, 2013
Attendance: 40 students

Webpage and Social Media--Our web page continues to be a great resource for students and faculty: [www.niu.edu/honors](http://www.niu.edu/honors). We list current information, upcoming events, and much more. Some sections that might be very important to review are our faculty section ([http://niu.edu/honors/audience/faculty.shtml](http://niu.edu/honors/audience/faculty.shtml)), course offerings section ([http://niu.edu/honors/courses/index.shtml](http://niu.edu/honors/courses/index.shtml)) and advising section ([http://niu.edu/honors/advising/index.shtml](http://niu.edu/honors/advising/index.shtml)).

Social media has also been a great way to engage with students and provide market information. Facebook: Northern Illinois University Honors Program. Twitter: @UnivHonorsNIU.

List Serve Messages--Weekly messages are sent every Monday containing information about a variety of opportunities and important information for University Honors students. We are very glad to post information about any of your events or opportunities you would like us to share with our students. All submissions must be sent to Vanessa Segundo by the Friday prior to the Week you would like to have your message distributed.
The layout the list serve message has now taken a newsletter approach, with a Word-version document attached in order for accessibility of links and viewing on a variety of mobile devices.

D. **Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors**

Goode presented the following written report:

1. **University Honors Summer Scholars** – All photos and biographies are updated on the website.
   a. Octavio Escalante-Aguirre, Elliott Ihm, & Lauren Nale

2. **Bold Futures Workshop**
   b. Attended the President’s workshop where we met in groups to suggest what issues and opportunities are most important for the university to capitalize on at this time. The president also explained his vision for the university and how the employees, community, students, and other factors play an important role in the future of this great institution.

3. **McKearn Summer Fellows Program**
   a. Attended a future planning meeting with faculty mentors who supported students over the summer.
   b. Meeting with Julia Spears, Stephanie Zobac, Jason Goode, and Bowers to discuss the McKearn final report. Once the report was created we all met with Joe Matty and Mike Malone to discuss next steps.

4. **National Scholarships**
   a. Rhodes Scholarship (Oxford), due October 2, 2013, at midnight.
      i. Three students applied with an institutional endorsement from Ray Alden--Lauren Boddy, Thomas Bouril, & Faith Stauersboll. Bouril has been selected for an interview.

5. **Fulbright Committee**
   a. Attended interviews and ranked the candidates who will be applying for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA).

6. **Golden Apple Scholarship committee**
   a. Rated and suggested awarding tiers for 54 applicants.
      i. $10,000 awarded to 8 students who received $1,250 split between two semesters.

7. **Maibach Breakfast**
   Attended breakfast with Michael Maibach, Christopher Caine, Honors students and staff. Later I attended the luncheon where Caine was the keynote speaker.

8. **Director’s retreat (attended on behalf of J.D.)**
   Meeting addressed upcoming changes, President Baker’s department visits, and the book *Managing Transitions* Ch. 1 & 2. The scope of the meeting was to prepare directors for dealing with transition and helping
their employees deal with the stages of transition due to eminent structural changes.

9. Homecoming Honors TedX talks
   Setup for reception, helped organize logistics w/ Marcy & Anne, then took families to the lecture hall to hear the speakers.

10. Graduate & Professional School fair (Shared table with International Programs)
    Took brochures for Rhodes, Gates, Marshall, and Truman scholarships.

11. Honor societies
    Contacted them to attend the Social Justice conference and encourage them to correspond with the University Honors Program.

12. Anatomy of an Honors Grant Proposal (2 sessions)
    Madeline Dickinson hosted the workshop as part of her capstone project

13. Walk-ins
    a. Two students came in to discuss UHP scholarships and study abroad funding.
    b. Two students who were recruited from the AAC invite meeting came in to discuss university-wide scholarships and tuition waivers

14. Volleyball with the doctors

15. SóL (Supporting opportunities for Latinos) Carros del SOL – Car show
    I attended to support this student organization, which has members from the Honors program. I drove my lowrider to the event and brought home a trophy. It is a 1983 Oldsmobile Delta 88 with 9 switches.

Bowers commended Goode for his work with the Rhodes Scholarship candidates. He put together sample interviews, cocktail parties, and other special events to give Bouril experiences necessary for the interview process. Bouril is the first finalist that NIU has ever had.
V. Additional Reports & Updates
   A. Student Representatives Report
      Lapidus presented a report for the committee student representatives. She reported the House Leaders have been doing a really good job and residents are responding well to them. Every cluster in the Honors House is receiving invitation to events. The House Leaders are seen frequently in the House.

      She has received feedback from students that they would like more Honors events and more Honors-only courses offered.

   B. Assessment Subcommittee
      There was no report.

VI. Old Business
    All old business was deferred to the December meeting.

VII. New Business
    Cho said he meets a lot of talented students in his accounting classes. He said he thinks the Honors Program needs to find a better way to get College of Business students to join. This was mentioned last year and he wondered if anything had happened. Cisneros said a reach out could be made but there needs to be a value added component. The departmental advisors in the College of Business will also need to talk about the Honors Program and the value added component. The perception is that accounting majors will get a job so they don’t need the extra work of Honors. He said the Honors Program has been proactive but that help is needed with selling the program.

    Lapidus said she is a double major which makes advising difficult. She said she would like each advisor have a list of the Honors courses being offered. Cisneros said this information is passed to the colleges but may not reach the advisors.

VIII. Adjournment
      Ballantine/Cho moved to adjourn the business meeting at 2:15 p.m. The motion passed.

IX. External Program Review
      The remainder of the meeting time was used for the committee to meet with the external reviewers.

      The next meeting will be held Friday, December 6, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 110.