UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
326th Meeting
December 6, 2013
1:30-3:30 PM, CLB 110

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 1, 2013

IV. Staff Reports (abbreviated)
   A. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
   B. Assistant Director of Academics and Advising
   C. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication
   D. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors

V. Additional Reports & Updates (abbreviated)
   a. Student Representatives Report
   b. Assessment Sub-committee

VI. Old Business
   a. Honors Faculty status
   b. HONS Course designation

VII. New Business
   a. EYE Grant Application Review and Selection

VIII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Friday, February 7, 2013
UNIVERSITY HONORS COMMITTEE
326th Meeting
December 6, 2013

(APPROVED)

Voting Members Present: Scott Balcerzak (LAS), Dave Ballantine (LAS), Patricia Braun (HHS), Sarah McHone-Chase (LIB/for Michael Duffy), Nick Pohlman, Bart Sharp (BUSE), John Eric Strid (EDUC), and Honors students Daihee Cho, Dan Jeffries, Rachel Lapidus, Luis Lopez, Jerrell Ross

Voting Members Absent: Dave Changnon (LAS), and Masih Shokrani (UCC/HHS)

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: None

Others: Honors staff Jes Cisneros, Joanne Ganshirt, Jason Goode, and Vanessa Segundo.

IX. Welcome
    Sharp welcomed all members present.

X. Approval of Agenda
    Bowers added proposing a new EYE Grant rubric and a question regarding courses added to New Business. Ballantine/Braun moved to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed.

XI. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 1, 2013
    Ballantine/Balcerzak moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

XII. Staff Reports
    E. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
    Bowers presented the following report:

    • Rhodes Finalist—Thomas Bouril, an history Honors student, was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholar. An article crafted by Good has been published. Good support and good cooperation from across campus and the community was received in preparing Bouril for the interview. The president of the Chicago Historical Museum was very positive about Bouril. NIU is now in a good place for future finalists.
- China Programs with CMT and CIT—The delegation from the Chinese universities spent several days on campus. NIU is now engaged in a full-blown reciprocal model hopefully to start this summer. Honors faculty will be asked to go to China for two weeks to give lectures and work with other faculty.

- Course enrollments—Enrollments are stagnant. A lot of students have encumbrances and are not yet able to enroll. Three Honors courses have already been cancelled.

- Honors Promotion—Bowers made presentations to the Exploring Majors House, Sycamore High School students (jointly with a representative from Kishwaukee College), and to undecided majors. He also attended a Phi Beta Kappa Interest Group and a meeting of Phi Beta Delta Internal Honor Society at which eight Honors students were inducted.

- Externship Program—Twelve prominent alumni offered externships to Honors students. There were 21 applicants. Twelve were selected and two alternates named. These externships offered students a variety of opportunities.

- Committees—The Honors Program now has a seat on the Enrollment Operations and Management Committee. Bowers is still working on trying to get seat on the Advising Deans Council.

- External Review—A draft copy of the external review has been received. Some corrections are still needed. Two items that are clear that the Vice Provost is receptive to is having Honors general education courses and hiring a full-time Honors instructor. These items will need to be discussed by the Honors Committee.

- Honors Events—The Honors Program conducted or sponsored several events in the past month. These included a talk on Hunger and Homelessness attended by 50 people, a Mohawk storyteller attended by 125 people, and the Alumni of the Year Award Dinner attended by 75 students and guests.

- Course enrichment for fall 2013—Seven activities were conducted at a cost of nearly $4,600.00.


- Foundation—Giving to the Honors Program through the Foundation is up from last year. So far there have been 34 donors. There is an increase in the number of $100 gifts received. A new request letter has been sent to alumni. An e-mail will be sent as will a newsletter.

- Bowers congratulated Cho on his upcoming graduation with University Honors. He thanked him for his service to the Honors Program.

F. Assistant Director of Academics and Advising
Cisneros presented the following report:

- Course cancellations have not stopped students from continuing with the Honors Program, but they will most likely be doing in-course contracts. The Honors Program staff is trying to limit the number of contracts.

- He has a busy month advising new and continuing students.

- Capstone rough drafts have been submitted and evaluated. Final copies are now due.

- He attended an assessment workshop conducted by the Faculty Development Office. He found it helpful. In the following year he will be trying to institute some of these ideas.

- The NIU Open House was held on November 11. The Honors Program had three breakout sessions with student panels.

- An Honors-only focused group was held and was well attended. A follow up session will be held to finalize the discussions.

- Admitted student day was held on December 5. The format was changed so students were brought to the Honors Center for a tour of the office and an overview of the program.

- He is continuing to plan and promote a senior retreat at the Lorado Taft Campus. Reactions have been positive but reservations have been slow. Part of the objective of the senior retreat is to get assessment started and to organize a senior gift.

Cisneros presented the following enrollment numbers:
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Cho asked if a breakdown of UDH and LDH by college major could be presented. These numbers will be included in future reports.

G. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication
Segundo presented the following report:

- Tuesday, December 10 is Don’t Stress the Test. This event offers a stress-free zone to recoup during finals week. It will feature seated massages and a coffee bar.

- She thanked faculty for staying after the juried art presentation in November for the special presentation to Christopher Jones, former Associate Vice Provost for University Honors.

- She announced there is a huge increase in the number of students interested in being house leaders.

- New events are being planned for the spring semester. These include a peer mentor workshop and newsletter development.

H. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
Goode presented the following report:

- He worked with Thomas Bouril, Rhodes Scholars candidate, to prepare him for the November 22-23 cocktail party and interview. This included conducting seven mock interviews with a committee, two cocktail parties hosted by John and Nancy Castle, a one-on-one presentation with Judy Santacaterina, multiple interviews between Goode and Bouril, and conversations with three current or former Rhodes Scholars—James Hohenbury at Kansas State, Ben Wilcox, and Eboo Patel. Goode also booked the hotel for the weekend interviews. He thanked the interviewers for the time they spent with Bouril. They had questions for Bouril that Goode had not asked which was beneficial.

- He attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in New Orleans. He attended the following sessions: The Use of Social Media to Better Engage Our Community; Facing Facebook: The Addiction to Social Media and its Effects in the Classroom; Honors College Recruiting in the 21st Century; Partnering with your Admissions Office to Recruit Honors Students; Recruiting Special Populations; Resource for Self-
studies and Program Reviews; Using Film as a Way to Integrate and Empower the Honors Community; Transformation: The Possibility for Honors Program Students and Major Scholarships; and Research and Creative Scholarship for Honors Students: Examining Three Types of Undergraduate Grant Opportunities.

- He verified that all recipients of Honors tuition waivers have participated in Honors events this semester.
- Met with Lincoln Laureate Sarah Stuebing regarding a lecture and service project.
- He completed teaching an Honors section of UNIV 101 on November 14. He graded the final course work and provided feedback on final papers.
- He met with Bowers, Cisneros, and Ted Campbell of the Office of Admissions regarding the December 5 Admitted Student Day. This was a brainstorming session. Cisneros executed the visit.

XIII. Additional Reports & Updates
A. Student Representatives Report

Lapidus has been speaking with residents of the Honors House. She has received a lot of positive feedback but had no further information to share.

Speaking as the president of the Honors Student Association (HSA), Lopez said one of the changes members would like to make to is to try to get more HSA members through the Honors scholarship program. Lopez asked if there was a way that future scholarship recipients be members of HSA in the same way the recipients work with Birthday Boxes, SOUPer Wednesday, and other Honors Events. HSA is having trouble getting students involved, especially those in the upper level of the program. Jeffries said living in the Honors House or being surrounded by other Honors students, then moving off campus makes it more difficult to be involved. Is there a chance for Honors apartment complex or to find a way to more off-campus students involved?

Lopez also said HSA members would like to have a voice with the Honors Committee or the Honors Program to discuss any problems. Cho agreed a representative from HSA on the Honors Committee would be good.
B. **Assessment Sub-committee**

There was no report. Bowers will contact representatives from the College of Education to help develop an assessment plan. The last of the Vision 2020 money will be used for this.

Sharp asked for volunteers for a working group to select the next recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award. Pohlman, Braun, and Lapidus volunteered.

**XIV. Old Business**

A. **Honors Faculty Status**

Bowers said these (faculty status and HONS course designation) are two of the more important things that need to be done. For the externship program, an ILAS course number had to be used. If there are HONS courses it would be easier to have specially designed courses. If the Honors Committee wants to move on the faculty status, it must be completed so the campus will be able to react. There will be seen and unforeseen consequences once it is proposed. Student feedback has been received already and the Program needs to be responsive. Sharp said the proposal has been written and rewritten but never voted on. The proposal will be sent to the current committee members via e-mail for discussion and approval.

B. **HONS Course designation**

Ballantine asked what the mechanism is for getting the course designation approved and implemented. Bowers said the proposal must work its way through the various university committees. He is currently asking questions to clarify the entire system. Ballantine said he would be willing to help work on a draft proposal but would want to know where it would go once completed. Bowers said the Center for Black Studies just did a course designation. It was not very complicated and was approved in less than a year. The earliest Honors would be able to have a designation would be 2015.

Cho asked if this would be for all Honors courses. Bowers said it would not at this point, but would be used for special courses. As an example Bowers said there are a professor of communications and a professor of history who will be co-teaching an Honors course. The question is which department will get the credit for teaching the course. Neither department wants to give up the half credit. This would be the type of test course for such a designation. Ballantine suggested developing an HONS 101 or HONS 201 course the replace the UNIV 101 and UNIV 201 courses currently offered that would focus on the Honors Program. Bowers said Goode will work on this type of course to emphasize research and artistry.
XV. New Business

A. EYE Grant Application Review and Selection
Honors Committee members evaluated four EYE Grant Proposals. Following discussion, a vote was taken on each individual proposal.

Ballantine/Cho moved to approve the first proposal up to $1,000. The motion passed.

Ballantine/Strid voted to approve the second proposal up to $1,000. The motion passed.

Following much discussion, Ballantine/Braun moved to vote up or down on the proposal. The motion passed. Ballatine/Balcerzak moved to approve the proposal as written. The motion was rejected with one abstention.

Ballatine/Brawn moved to approve the fourth proposal up to $1,000. The motion passed with one abstention.

B. EYE Grant Rubric
Bowers said he found a draft copy of a new EYE Grant rubric. It had been created last year by Christopher Jones and Changnon. Based on the comments in the above EYE Grant Proposal discussions, Bowers said he would like to work on a new rubric. The new rubric should send a message to students and faculty as to what is required in the proposal.

C. Courses
Bowers asked committee members what their reaction is to making the aforementioned COMS/HIST course be split by the departments. Cho asked how the split would work for students. Bowers said the students could choose to register for the course through either COMS course number or the HIST course number. This would be a good option for students. Committee members agreed that splitting the course would be the easiest way to offer the course.

Bowers asked faculty members of the Honors Committee for help evaluating and reading essays of scholarship applicants and then attending interviews. There are 88 applications and 20-25 will be invited for interviews. Sharp, Ballantine, and McHone-Chase volunteered.

XVI. Adjourn
Ballantine/Braun moved to adjourn at 3:13 p.m. The motion passed. The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2014 at 1:30 in Campus Life 100.