UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
333rd Meeting
October 3, 2014
1:30-3:30 PM, CLB 110

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes from September 2014

IV. Staff Reports
   A. Associate Vice Provost
   B. Assistant Director of Academics and Advising
   C. Acting Assistant Director of Programming and Communication
   D. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost

V. Additional Reports & Updates
   A. Student Representatives

VI. Old Business
   A. Honors Faculty Status
   B. Assessment Plan
   C. Revised Honors Admission Criteria - Handouts
   D. Alumni of the Year Award
   E. Honors Faculty Fall Workshop
   F. HONS Course Designation Proposal - Handout

VII. New Business
   A. E-portfolios: Design, Implementation, Review, and Outcomes
   C. Capstone and ICC Procedures (Review of changes made in 2013)
   D. EYE Grant Proposal and Rubric Revisions
   E. Walk-on items

VIII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Friday, November 7
Voting members present: Scott Balcerzak (LAS), Dave Changnon (LAS/Acting Chair), Amanda Ferguson (BUSE for Bart Sharp), Rebecca Houze (VPA), Sarah McHone-Chase (LIB), Tim Pierce (LAS), Nicholas Pohlman (EET) John Evar Strid (EDUC), and Honors students Ken Barnett, Katie Denius, Jeff Kamholz, John Sauter, and Faith Young.

Voting members absent: Patricia Braun (HHS) and Masih Shokrani (UCC/HHS).

Ex-officio present: J. D. Bowers (Honors)

Ex-officio absent: Michael Kolb (Vice Provost)

Other: Honors staff Marcy Brown (Recording Clerk), Jes Cisneros, Sandra Dawson, Jason Goode and Honors House Advisor Dave Ballantine.

I. Welcome
Committee members were welcomed and introduced to new member Houze who had been unable to attend the first meeting. Changnon was acting chair due to the absence of Sharp.

II. Approval of Agenda
Balcerzak/Strid moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes
Sauter/Denius moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

IV. Staff Reports
A. Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
Bowers presented the following report:
1. Enrollment numbers-see handout
   a. University Honors-- By the Numbers
      196 new First-Year students; mean ACT of 28.8, mean class rank of top
      12.4%, mean HS GPA of 3.89. 100 new transfer students with a mean
      collegiate GPA of 3.68. We have a current enrollment of 1157 students (94
      more than last year, 9.2% increase). 719 students (63%) hold scholarships.

2. Retention numbers from 2013 AY to 2014 AY (first-year students only)- see handout
   a. From the 2013 First-Year students, we returned n (86%).

3. Changes to Univ Honors admissions matrix
   a. Distribution and admission - see handouts
   b. Impact on Univ Honors enrollment and scholarships

4. Honors Staff Update
   a. Benchmarking data

5. Donations/Giving
   a. Alumni
   b. Senior Class

6. Attendance Tracking Project
   a. First two weeks of class: 69 UH students, 87 absences
   b. Full data will be released next week by Dana Gautcher

7. HCIR Report
   a. Five CC, four small privates, WIU and NIU attended on 9128
   b. NIU will be hosting the Spring 2016 Honors Student Symposium and HCIR
Meeting

c. We will add HCIR and UMRHC events and opportunities into our regular calendar of opportunities and symposiums for students

8. Research and Artistry
   a. HRAA - Six projects, seven faculty, cost $3000 if all students complete

9. McKearn Fellows
   a. Application is now live
   b. Three info/recruiting sessions

10. Lincoln Laureate
    a. All six nominees are Univ Honors students; recipient will be announced soon.

11. Faculty Symposiums
    a. Dates

12. Honors House Update

13. Curriculum and Curses 15-16AY
    a. New process for courses
       i. Application and review
       ii. Syllabus upfront
    b. Global Issues Course - Pilot

14. In-progress Projects
    a. New website
    b. Student and faculty Handbook
    c. Rovertown
    d. The Hague Program
    e. China Study Abroad
    f. Food truck
    g. Vacancies
    h. Honors Early College - Proposed SU 15
       i. GLAP - SU 15
    j. Taft 2015
       i. Dates: Session 1: Aug. 19-20; Session II: Aug. 20-21
       ii. Pressure to change with new Welcome Days? Meeting coming up.
       iii. Changes to Orientation (2 Days in SU 15)
    k. NCHC - Nov 6-9 in Denver

B. Assistant Director for Academics and Advising

Cisneros presented the following report:

1. Capstone and in-course contract information sessions have been or will be held to inform all students of policy changes and the steps needed to complete each.
2. Continues to advise the Honors Student Association on activities
3. He is the faculty advisor for the Veterans’ Program.
4. He is making preparations for the October 13 NIU Columbus Day Open House for prospective students.

C. Acting Assistant Director of Programming and Communication

Dawson presented the following report:

Event programming:

1. Social Justice Conference 25 October 2015—final program completed, website updated for registration, catering confirmed with CAUSE.
2. Dennis Barsema Social Entrepreneurship and Microfinance Series, 7, 17 and 20 October, 5-7:30pm. 22 students pre-enrolled.
3. Poverty and Homelessness Simulation Program, 19 November 5-8pm Regency Room in collaboration with the Northern Illinois Foodbank.
4. Service projects—coordinating projects and fund raising with Honors Fellows. Projects include Walking with Water sponsored event with TDS (October 16); Halloween Party for Hope Haven Children (October 29), holiday party for Altus School (early December), Huskie Food Pantry food drive and assistance (September 29).

5. Potential fundraiser opportunities in collaboration with Culvers in Sycamore (October) and Jersey Mike’s in DeKalb (November).

6. Planning for spring: working with Fellows to plan Peer mentor Summit in March; Dr. Bill McCoy is confirmed for Ethical Leadership Workshop Series, Feb 24, March 3,17,24,31.

7. Survey Monkey to poll students about ideas for the spring program, particularly alternatives to Hot Lunch/Hot Topics.

8. Working with Jack King on ideas for alternative spring break opportunities for Honors students.

Communications:

NIU Today
1. Pre-Social Justice Conference article
2. Extern to Intern Alumna article

Fall Newsletter:
1. Soliciting news from students, alumnae, faculty
2. Honors Program Achievement highlights
3. Honors Program innovation
4. Honors Program highlights

D. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors
1. McKearn
   a. Application launched Oct. 1st via the website www.niu.edu/mckearn
      i. Deadline to apply October 31st at 12:00 p.m.
      ii. 3 workshops, 2 led by J.D. and 1 by me.
2. Rhodes
3. Marshall
4. Fulbright Committee
   a. Met September 30th to interview potential candidates.
5. Website
   a. Updated McKearn website to host application and added a “Become a McKearn Fellow” link.
   b. Created a button for the Senior Class Gift on the Honors homepage.
      i. The button links to the alumni association website to take donations
6. Mortar Board co-advisor
   a. Helped them as they planned their events for the next academic year.
7. Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce
   a. List activities on campus for minorities who are SPS or Civil Service and submitted a report to Kristine Huffine who served as the group lead.
8. **Student Success Collaborative**  
a. System designed by EAB (Education Advisory Board)

9. **Grant Writing Workshop**  
a. Grant Resource Center hosted a 2.5 day workshop.  
   i. aascu.org/grc (click on Grant Search)  
   ii. grants.gov
b. Day One - Developing Research Proposals  
   i. Preliminary and Pilot Data  
   ii. Collaboration  
   iii. Sponsors and Program Officers
c. Day Two - Developing Program Proposals  
   i. Program evaluation  
   ii. Collaboration: Benefits, risks, building effective collaborative relationships for program grants  
   iii. Talking to program officers at program funding agencies
d. Day Three - Being a reviewer / mock NSF proposal review

10. UNIV 101 H (team taught by J.D., Jes, and I)
11. Worked with American Solutions for Business to develop some graduation items with Honors insignia for parents to purchase as graduation gifts.

V. **Additional Reports and Updates**
   A. **Student Representatives**

   I. **Taft Retreat**  
   a. Transfer Students  
      i. Information given at the retreat was aimed for incoming freshman Young said she would like to see more information given out that pertains to transfer students.  
      ii. Possibly have one designed just for transfer students
   
   Students also said they would like to be able to move into the residence halls the day before the departure for Taft. At that time they would like to receive information about Research Rookies, scholarships/financial aid, and certain other information that is currently distributed during the Taft Retreat.

   b. Spring Semester  
      i. Have an on-campus event for students who begin in the spring semester  
         1. Either combined for transferred or new students or separate
   
   c. Hold retreat as an on-campus event

   II. **Recruitment Ambassador**  
   a. A designated position to promote honors program to potential students  
      i. New position for honors students?  
      ii. New responsibility for existing Honors Fellows?
   
   b. Attend open house events on campus
   
   c. Attend high schools and community colleges  
      i. Possibly team with reps who already attend events

Bowers agreed to meet with students after a few weeks to discuss these matters.
VI. Old Business
A. Honors Faculty Status
   Bowers will send out all the information for this.
B. Assessment Plan
   Cisneros will send the information to all committee members.
C. Revised Honors Admission Criteria – Handouts
D. Alumni of the Year Award
   Pohlman led the discussion on the three candidates for this award. The committee decided to rate each candidate electronically, then discuss the rankings at the November meeting.
E. Honors Faculty Fall Workshop
   This was tabled.
F. HONS Course Designation Proposal – Handout
   This discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

VII. New Business
A. E-portfolios: Design, Implementation, Review, and Outcomes
   There was no discussion.
   Bowers will explore this further.
C. Capstone and ICC Procedures (Review of changes made in 2013)
   Changes were discussed but no action taken.
D. EYE Grant Proposal and Rubric Revisions
   This item was tabled.
E. Walk-on Items
   There were no walk-on items.

VIII. Adjournment
Barnett/Denius moved to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting will be Friday, November 7 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 110.
Northern Illinois University (Test Score
350%/HS GPA 65.0%) UNIVERSITY HONORS
ADMISSION DISTRIBUTION MATRIX
Test Score (SAT or Acn and HS GPA on 100
Formula: (HS GPA x 16.25) + (ACT x 0.97222) or (SAT x 0.021875)

<table>
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<th>ACT Score</th>
<th>36</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>34</th>
<th>33</th>
<th>32</th>
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<th>24</th>
<th>23</th>
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When combined, these boxes would have resulted in 1432 admits
That would mean a potential increase of 35

Our belief is that have an insignificant impact on our class profile We have asked

Univ Honors Admissions Matrix and Distribution

7
University Honors
Position Requests Sep. 30, 2014

Submitted by: J.D. Bowers

On behalf of University Honors, I submit the following two requests for consideration. Each is a vital position to our critical mission at NIU and within University Honors. With both currently vacant (although the first is a request to raise a vacant position in rank) our service to students, and ability to meet our mission and values, have all been severely hampered. It is my hope that we can have these positions approved, to return us to full staff strength, at a time when our enrollment has increased to its highest levels ever.

Associate Director

Position Justification:
Will hold supervisory (2 professional staff, 12 student staff) and daily operations management role
Will have oversight and planning responsibility for the McKern Fellows program and the Presidential Scholars program, both are new programs to University Honors
Will serve as primary liaison to Admissions, Academic Advising, Career Services, First and Second Year Experiences, and the Office of Student Engagement and Experiences
Will coordinate recruitment and retention programming as well as oversight of the new programmatic requirements for research, artistry, externship, and co-curriculars to accommodate growth
Replaces a position that has been vacant since January 2014, during which time the program has grown over 9% to a total of 1145 students

Trends:
When benchmarked against in-state, public institutions, MAC peer institutions, and some prominent NCHC programs (including University of Iowa), NIU is the only large program (500+ students) without an Associate Director (or comparable position, e.g. Assoc. Dean).
Noel-Levitz, in their 2013 Student Retention Practices Report, listed Honors programs as one of two top-ranked practices across institutions for their high-impact and overall value to both the campus and students.
Our recent external review (December, 2013, conducted by Art Spisak, University of Iowa, and Joel Schwartz, College of William & Mary) noted that our program was under-staffed for the population, and suggested that staffing should be altered to reflect changed priorities and a lesser need for a solely programmatic-focused Assistant Director position.

Mission Contribution:
University Honors was recently included in President Baker's priorities as a unit that will help the University advance its recruitment and retention efforts, as well as our reputation and national standing. The growth of University Honors is a positive indicator for the growth of highly talented and successful students into NIU.
University Honors has been a presence on campus since 1969 and has been, steadily, building an identifiable "brand" among our students and alumni.
University Honors has made it one of its central missions to serve as a focal point for an R&D approach to academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities, partnerships, ideas, and teaching.
Advisor

Position Justification:
Will serve in the role of student advisor as overarching, primary duties.
University Honors has had required mandatory advising for all of its students for over ten years (see "Trends" and Noei-Levitz, below, for justification).
Ari increase in the number of students who require advising (an n. of 82 or 9.2% over just one year, to a total of 1145 students) and the increase in the number of touch points (extended Orientation, new PLUS program, new retention initiatives within University Honors, student career success projects, etc.), as well as changing scenarios across campus, means more students with more chances for problems unless they have ready access to advising.
Internal institutional benchmarking data clearly indicates that University Honors lags far behind other campus programs with distinct student cohorts and advisors:
Academic Advising Center: 850 +/- students with 5 advisors; ratio of ladvisor to 170 students
Athletics: 440 +/- students with 8 advisors; ratio of ladvisor to 55 students
CHANCE: 1800 +/- students with 12 advisors; ratio of ladvisor to 150 students
University Honors: 1145 +/- students with ladvisor; ratio of ladvisor to 1145 students
Our current advisor is actually an Assistant Director whose job description requires that at least half of his time be spent on other duties, but the volume of advising has resulted in a substantial shift, causing extensive advising delays, programming fall-off, and frustrated students.
The position has been vacant since March 2014.

Trends:
Noei-Levitz, in their 2013 Student Retention Practices Report, listed mandatory advising as one of two top-ranked practices (the other being Honors programs) across institutions for its high-impact and overall value to both the campus and students.
Our recent external review (December, 2013, conducted by Art Spisak, University of Iowa and Joel Schwartz, College of William & Mary) noted that our program was under-staffed for the population, and suggested that staffing should be altered to reflect changed priorities and a lesser need for a solely programmatic-focused Assistant Director position. We propose this as a position that will put students first and allow us to have a dedicated advisor.

MissiQn Contribution:
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<td>GPA</td>
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<td>Enrollment (Avg annual)</td>
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**Honors Staff**

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<td>Associate Vice Provost</td>
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<td>Assoc. Dean</td>
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<td>TOTAL STAFF (All positions possible)</td>
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**Honors Faculty**

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<td>TOTAL FACULTY</td>
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<td>101</td>
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**Named Scholars (new, per year)**

| 50 | | | | |
| 30 | | | | |

**Salaries (In-state only)**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Merrill-Fink (Director), SIU</td>
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<td>Fredstrom (Director), ISU</td>
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<td>Hardy (Dean), WIU</td>
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<td>Graber (Director), UiUC</td>
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<td>Michelson (Director), UIC</td>
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<td>OVer (Director), NEIU</td>
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**Community College Programs I**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joliet Junior College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kishwaukee College</td>
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<tr>
<td>McHenry County Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moraine Valley Community College</td>
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University Honors-- Overview Fall 2014

196 new First-Year students
Mean ACT of 28.8 [27 is our requirement]
Mean class rank of top 12.4% [Top 10% is our requirement] Mean HS GPA of 3.89 [3.75 is our requirement]

100 new transfer students
Mean collegiate GPA of 3.68 [3.2 is our requirement]

We began the AY with 1145 students
That's an increase of 82 students (9.3%) over last AY 719 students (63%) hold scholarships
As of 01-Oct-2014 we had 1157 students

Retention Rates 2013 to 2014
There were 218 First-Year students in Fa 2013 213 are still at NIU
(97%)

We returned 183 into University Honors (86%)

The 86% retention rate compares favorably NIU’s retention rate
last year was 71%
The historic (10-year) retention avg. is 76%
We are up 15% over last year and 10% over the historical avg.

The 2013 Alumni Survey reveals that a University Honors graduate is...
...1.74 times more likely to get a job closely related to their field of study
...1.59 times more likely to get a job by the time of graduation
...2.16 times more likely to enroll in graduate school and pursue an advanced degree