UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Committee Meeting
335th Meeting
December 5, 2014
1:30-3:30 PM, CLB 110

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes from November 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 - Bart
   B. Assessment Plan – See Handout
   C. Alumni of the Year Award
   D. Honors Faculty Fall Workshop Report
   E. Honors House: Honors House Annex(es)?

VII. New Business
   A. Montreal Study Abroad Program
   B. AY 2015-16 (including SU 15) Courses and Options
   C. EYE Grant Review and Approval
   D. Walk-on items

VIII. Adjourn

The next meeting is Friday, February 6, 2015
I. Welcome
Sharp welcomed the committee to the final meeting for the fall 2014 semester.

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

III. Approval of Minutes from November 2014
Kamholz/Pierce moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.

IV. Staff Reports
A. Associate Vice Provost
Bowers presented the following report:

1. Past Events
   b. Fall Senior Honors Ceremony and reception. This was the first-ever such event. The event went very well. The families were pleased. Of 39 December graduates, 29 attended. Vice Provost Anne Birberick attended and made some nice comments. This is something the Honors Program would like to continue.
2. **Ongoing Activities**
   a. **Spring 2015 Enrollments**
      Bowers thanked the committee for conversations previously held regarding spring courses and enrollments. These conversations will continue for the next semester’s offerings. Right now, he is only concerned with two courses. Both have single digit enrollments. For one, he has spoken with teaching professor and efforts will be made to re-evaluate the course to see what can be done to improve enrollments. Students give the course positive evaluations, but enrollment is slow every time it offered. Two political science courses will be run as scheduled since the department is paying for the faculty. The discussions held mean only nine students are in jeopardy of losing a class rather than 25 like the previous semester.
   
   b. **McKearn Fellows Program**
      Interviews were conducted in the morning of December 5 with more scheduled for December 8 to select the new group of McKearn Fellows. These students will probably be enrolled in the Honors section of UNIV 105 so that course will then be offered.
   
   c. **Presidential Scholars**
      i. **On Campus Cohort**
         Current Presidential Scholar recipients are being asked to work together as a cohort to increase their visibility and also to help recruit future Presidential Scholars to NIU.
      ii. **Selection Process (31 January 2015) for Class of 2019**
   
   d. **Honors Research and Artistry Assistants**
   
   e. **Externship Program—Numbers, Placements**
   
   f. **Giving/Donors**
      i. **Numbers, Events Prospects**
   
   g. **Study Abroad Programs**
      The Hague—two strands, Montreal, China (Chongqing and Taigu), and Mendoza, Argentina
      Bowers said the Honors Program will be able to cover the faculty stipend for the study abroad programs. This will lower the cost for the students and should help boost enrollments in each program.
   
   h. **Student Handbook**

3. **Future Planning (Select Activities)**
   a. **Call for AY 15-16 courses will go out soon**
Bowers will soon contact departments regarding course offerings for the academic year 2015-16. He is specifically looking for interdisciplinary seminars. Seminars and mini-sections may be offered within departments but these are a lower priority. The Honors Program will be able to offer up to three summer courses. Bowers said he would like to have a repeat of the History of Alcohol course from last summer and add two others.

b. Developing, in conjunction with MCC, online faculty tutorial
   i. Will come with faculty Handbook, Readings, Short Activities
   ii. Approval stage for course ideas and activities

c. Working on CC MOUs to formalize partnerships

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

- Met with new and continuing students in the program (at times every half hour). 66 individual meetings, not counting walk-ins.
- Attended National Collegiate Honors Council meeting in Denver November 5-9. Attended many insightful sessions, especially regarding program outcomes assessment.
- Staffed and participated in the NIU Open House on November 10. WE had a presence both on the main floor, as well as three break-out information sessions with prospective students and parents in the University Suite of Holmes Student Center.
- Presented series of informational workshops on the revised in-course Honors contract process and the Capstone proposal, as well as EYE Grant opportunities (prior to the semester deadline). Made some exceptions and met with students individually who could not attend the scheduled sessions.
- Met with students regarding the Honors Student Association as well as NIU Veterans Association in my capacity as faculty advisor.
- Participated in Northern Neighborhood morning sessions during NIU Orientation program for incoming spring students. Made informational presentations to parents later in the day as well. This is the first time the Honors Program has participated in these sessions.
- Met multiple times individually with Honors Fellows staff who advise to make certain that the information that they are providing students is helpful and consistent with program policies and procedures.
Continued work on Honors Assessment plan, focusing on instruments and procedures for data collection. Met with staff from Office of Assessment Services to seek input.

- Participated in Fall Honors Recognition Event.
- Spent time working on planning for the spring 2015 new student information session to be held January 11, 2015.
- Continued teaching sections of UNIV 101H and EPFE 201H.

C. Acting Assistant Director of Programming and Communication

A list of the events Sandra Dawson has scheduled for the spring 2015 semester was distributed to committee members. (See below)

D. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost

Goode presented the following report:

1. McKearn Scholars
   Read, rated, and compiled committee scores for all applicants. Sixteen applicants will be interviewed from 20 total applications. Scheduled interviews based on student availability, then notified students of their interview time.

2. Marshall Fellowship
   Michael Kaczmarek, history major seeking a teaching certificate, submitted an application for the Marshall Scholarship, but was not selected to move forward.

3. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
   Luke Maring, mechanical engineering major and Honors Scholar, submitted an NSF application with the help and guidance of his mentor, Dr. Nick Pohlman. Awaiting update.

4. Scholarship Fair
   Attended the first ever scholarship fair hosted by the Scholarship Office, Approximately 500 students attended and it was a successful event. In the future, this can serve as a University Honors Program recruiting event.

5. Kessy Wesener—Welcome Days
   Attended a meeting on welcome days that focused on rethinking the process to make it better for students and staff alike.

6. McNair Scholars
   Served as a panelist for visiting McNair Scholars per the request of the NIU Graduate School.

7. International Recognition Lunch
   Honors received an award for its support of international programs
8. **Dialogue on Ferguson**  
Called together by Kelly Wesener and Jennifer Groce to discuss some ways to engage the NIU community in productive ways to have dialogue about Ferguson.

9. **Foundation updates training**  
Attended with Ganshirt to get an update on how scholarship are processed; 92, 93, and 94 scholarship/award accounts; and the proper forms to complete when awarding a scholarship.

10. **Huskie Links training**  
A social network styled system that will allow student organizations to reserve rooms and do much more once students adopt the platform. This was conducted by Morgan Brickley of Student Involvement and Leadership Development.

11. **Marjorie Meanger**  
For the past two years, Meanger, an NIU alum, has donated money to award a $300 scholarship each to an academically talented business and education major. This year’s recipients are Vicky Greene and Justin Pirard.

12. **Website**  
Launched the scholarship application on November 1 and closed it on December 1. Updated content as needed on upcoming events and the Luminary page.

13. **Outreach**  
Reaching out to several students who are struggling academically.

14. **Mortar Board co-advisor**  
Will sell flowers at December commencement.

15. **UNIV 101H (team taught by Bowers, Cisneros, and Goode)**

V. **Additional Reports & Updates**

A. **Student Representatives**
Sauter said based on comments he and other student representatives have received, the Honors Program should try to find a different mode of communication for relaying information to students. Several suggestions were made for these changes.

VI. **Old Business**

A. **Honors Faculty Status**
Sharp said he is still working on this.
B. **Assessment Plan** – See Handout
   The assessment plan was sent to committee members prior to the meeting. Bowers said there is still some work that needs to be done, but everything should be done by the next meeting.

C. **Alumni of the Year Award**
   The award will be presented at the Peer Mentorship Summit on Friday, March 27, 2015. Sharp will send the invitation letter to the recipient.

D. **Honors Faculty Fall Workshop Report**
   Bowers said eight faculty members attended the sessions. A model found at the NCHC conference will be utilized in the future to do online work in this area.

E. **Honors House: Honors House Annex(es)?**
   Bowers informed the committee that is too late for any space to be obtained as an Honors House Annex in Gilbert Hall for next year. Sharp asked if this is something that should be looked at for the 2016-17 academic year. Bowers said he thinks it should be considered and that any problems with uniting the two locations can be overs. Most of the students with financial holds on their records are for housing costs not tuition. He said he does not want to see students go deeper in debt just to live in the Honors House.

VII. **New Business**
   A. **Montreal Study Abroad Program**
      This was tabled to the next meeting.

   B. **AY 2015-16 (including Su15) Courses and Options**
      This was discussed in the above Associate Vice Provost Report.

   C. **EYE Grant Review and Approval**
      Committee members submitted their scores and the eight applicants were ranked by average highest to lowest. Pierce/Sauter moved to remove the lowest scorer from consideration. The motion passed.

      Balcerzak/McHone-Chase moved to approve the proposal submitted by Alexis Lamb as it was deemed very professional. The motion passed. Ballantine suggested that instead of jumping from proposal to proposal the committee concentrate first on those that should not be funded. The committee agreed.
The next proposal presented was deemed to not have any true outcome. Strid/Pierce moved to not fund this proposal. The motion passed.

Kamholz said the fourth proposal presented did not have any enrichment listed. Sauter agreed noting there was not much background given. Barnett/Pierce moved to not fund this proposal. The motion passed.

McHone-Chase/Strid moved to approve the proposal from Rachel Slowik. The motion passed.

Pohlman said the next proposal submitted was not written in a language appropriate for this type of committee. Much discussion was held, including indications there were conflicts within the budget and missing information. Pohlman/Barnett moved to not fund this proposal. The motion passed.

Shokrani said the next proposal was missing part of the student background and no bibliography was included. Balcerzak agreed there was no bibliography but noted there was a good literature review. He added that this is the type of project the Honors Program should be supporting for the student’s future career. The committee spent some time discussing this proposal. Balcerzak/Strid moved to fund the proposal. The motion was defeated with 0 ayes, 8 nay, and 3 abstain.

Pohlman/Strid moved to fund a proposal submitted by Maria Senf. The motion passed.

D. Walk-on Items
There were no walk-on items.

VIII. Adjournment
Pohlman/Denius moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m. The motion passed. The next meeting will be Friday, February 6, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 110.
Spring 2015 Honors Program Events and SILD

Semester Dates: 12 January-8 May (Spring Break March 8-15)

Taft Redux—Sunday 11 January

1. Week One 12 Jan
2. Week Two 19 Jan MLK Day
3. Week Three 26 Jan
   Hot Food/Hot Topics, Wednesday 21 Jan, CLB 110 Soup (HE)V Joyce Keller—internships and rep from Feed ‘em Soup (still need to verify Feed ‘em Soup)
4. Week Four 2 Feb
   Hot Food/Hot Topics Wednesday 4 Feb, CLB 110 (Alumni) (HE)V Feed ‘em Soup, Wednesday 4 Feb, 122 South 1st St. DeKalb (15 slots) need to book these (HE)
5. Week Five 9 Feb
   Hot Food/Hot Topics, Wednesday 11 Feb, CLB 110 Pizza (Paul Nixon) (HE)V
   Thursday—Paul Nixon Lecture, CLB 110, 5-7pm?? Topic V
6. Week Six 16 Feb
   Hot Food/Hot Topics, Wednesday 18 Feb, CLB 110 (Alumni) (HE)V Birthday Boxes and Altus Academy Valentine’s Party (need to secure transport and book date with JD) (HE)V
7. Week Seven 23 Feb
   Ethics and Leadership Series 24 Feb, CLB 100 (HE)V
8. Week Eight 2 March
   Ethics and Leadership Series 3 March, CLB 100 (HE)V Hot Food/Hot Topics, Wednesday 4 March, CLB 110 Soup (HE)V
9. Week Nine 9 March
   Spring Break
   Alternative Spring Breaks—SILD
10. Week Ten 16 March Classes Resume
    Ethics and Leadership Series 17 March, CLB 100 (HE)V Feed My Starving Children 21 March, Aurora IL (120 max) (HE)V check with Joanne about Huskie bus
    Canned Food Drive, CLB 110
11. Week Eleven 23 March
    Ethics and Leadership Series 24 March, CLB 100 (HE)V Hot Food/Hot Topics, Wednesday 25 March, CLB 110 (Alumni) (HE)V Peer Mentorship Summit Friday 27 March, Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center, 9-2.30pm (HE)V
    Canned Food Drive, CLB 110
12. Week Twelve 30 March
    Ethics and Leadership 31 March, CLB 100 (HE)V Volunteer at Huskie Food Pantry (HE)V
    Wednesday 1 April Course Preview Fair 100-200, CLB 100
    Thursday 2 April Course Preview Fair 300-400, CLB 100
13  Week Thirteen 6 April
   Social Impact Summit (CAUSE) Friday 10 April (HE)V
   Orientation—Transfer Students, Friday 10 April
14  Week Fourteen 13 April
   Orientation—Transfer Students, Tuesday 14 April
   Hot Food/ Hot Topics, Wednesday 15 April, CLB 110 Pizza (HE)V Domestic Abuse—Sarah Slavenas, Safe Passage. SSslavenas@safepassagedv.org confirmed.
   Honors Day Sunday, 19 April, Duke Ellington Ballroom, 5-7pm
15  Week Fifteen 20 April
   Orientation—Transfer Students, Monday 20 April
   Orientation—Transfer Students, Wednesday 22 April
   Orientation—Transfer Students, Friday 24 April
   Don’t Stress the Test Wednesday 22 April, CLB 100 V
   TEDX-NIU Conference, Saturday 25 April, Sandburg Auditorium (HE)V
16  Week Sixteen 27 April (classes end April 30th, 1 May is reading day)
17  Week Seventeen 4 May Finals Week
   8/9 May Graduation