University Honors Program
Honors Committee – Agenda

2/3/2017 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Campus Life Building 110
350th Meeting
Approved

Voting Member Present: Bart Sharp (BUS), Nick Pohlman (EET), John Evar Strid (EDU), Sarah McHone-Chase (LIB), Scott Balcerzak (LAS), Emily McKee (LAS), Mary Elaine Koran (HHS), Rebecca Houze (VPA), Justyna Jaworski (Student)

Voting Members Absent: I Younan an (Student), Rachel Shapland (Student), Charles Duval (Student), Clarissa Hinshaw (Student)

Ex-officio present: Todd Gilson (Honors)

Ex-officio absent: Ed Klonoski (Vice Provost)

Others: Jason Goode (Honors), Jes Cisneros (Honors), Marcy Brown (Recording Clerk)

I. Approval of Agenda
Pohlman/McKee moved to approve agenda as presented. Motion passed

II. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2016
Balcerzak/McHone-Chase moved to approve minutes as presented. Motion passed

III. Staff Reports
a. Director – Todd
   - Enrollment numbers
   - See numbers presented at meeting (collected on the 1st of every month)
   - Joe and Kate Maddy made a $25,000 scholarship donation to Honors ($5,000 for 5 years)
   - NIU alumni association indicated gift could not be a named scholarship because Maddy already has named “entities” on campus
   - In consultation with Jason – funds to be endowed and added to the Massey scholarship
   - Honors Great Professor Award announcement distributed
   - Nomination packets due Friday, February 24, 2017
Beginning steps to form “Honors affinity group” with alumni
Purpose – serve as a resource for current Honors students as they matriculate through the program and continue to graduate/professional school or launch their career.
Calls to targeted alumni ongoing

Series of “Meet the Director” events to be scheduled this spring around area (working with NIU alumni association)

b. Assistant Director – Jes
- Met with new and continuing students in the program.
- Worked with students coming in for NIU spring orientation program.
- Made sure we were staffed for Admitted Student Day(s).
- Worked on contracts for both sessions of Honors Taft Retreat 2017.
- Continued planning for spring 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). Sessions are running 1-2 times a week for each type all semester long.
- Spent time contacting Honors Program alumni and collecting / displaying pennants from their graduate institutions.
- Spent time looking at Honors ‘pathway’ possibilities in the context of proposed changes to Honors curricular structure.
- Reviewed and noted/finalized every In-Course Honors Contract for spring 2017.
- Reviewed and noted all Capstone Proposal submissions for spring 2017.
- Participated in multiple Northern Neighborhood programs for NIU Orientation for Spring semester.
- Participated in NIU Orientation program overview meeting and followed-up with advising colleagues regarding how Honors will best adjust to new program format.
- Met with students regarding NIU Quiz Bowl as well as NIU Veterans Association in my capacity as faculty advisor.
- 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.
- Spent time writing letters of recommendation.

c. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors – Jason
- National Scholarships and Fellowships (Jason and Anna Quider)
• Goldwater – Submitted
  • 3 applicants submitted applications for the Goldwater scholarship
    o Miranda Cox
    o Ryan Lewis
    o Jayson Shiau
• Truman - Deadline February 7th
  o Rachel Jacob
• Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship
  o Charles Moore
• Campus Visit for Bianca Spalla
• Organized the itinerary with a special Honors House tour, Honors overview, scholarship overview, Lunch with Darien Los and students, dinner with students in New Hall, and an AcademicWorks introduction
• Worked with Alyssa Hildebrand in Admissions to coordinate a campus tour, department meetings, and Admissions provided lunch vouchers
• AcademicWorks Training
• Reviewer setup and scholarship administration training
• McKearn Program
• Semester kick-off meeting, info session, application launch
• Organize semester details with Brittany
• MapWorks Advisory Board
• Met with the board to plan and discuss ideas for a February MapWorks mini-conference at NIU.

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – vacant

IV. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Update
Mary Elaine Koran, Sarah McHone-Chase, Rebecca Houze are interested in participating

V. Old Business
  a. Honors Faculty Status – feedback from Greg Long (11/14) and Baccalaureate Council (12/8)
     Gilson stated that this went badly when he spoke to Greg Long.
Bacc Council—do we go through with it, or do we scrap it based on Bacc Council comments?

Sharp Stated that we should look at Greg’s comments

McKee asked do we want to keep faculty if they only teach a few courses? Is that enough?

Sharp suggested we incorporate Greg Long’s and the Bacc. Council and let it go up for a vote

Sharp also asked if we should simplify requirements.

McKee asked what would be enough for Honors Status?

Gilson stated that people viewed it as hoops to go through for a reward that they do not need or want.

Koran commented that the negativity is because there is no tangible thanks or compensation

Sharp stated Most faculty enjoy working with Honors Students and don’t need compensation.

McHone-Chase if voluntary, what is the hold-up

Houze asked what about the In Course Contracts

Eva Strid stated that next time it goes to council, he will represent the Honors Committee.

McHone-Chase asked if any other institutions do this

Koran asked if there was any chance of future compensation

b. UHHS 399 – Honors Seminar (online) – no update

c. Capstone innovation – I-Lab (MGMT 481 / CEET 481) – no update

VI. New Business

a. Honors strategic plan

McKee really liked it. Makes it look like opportunity

Koran stated it was fantastic—embraces it—concerned about nursing students

Gilson going to try limiting to one In Course Contract, hoping to provide flexibility

Pohlman stated it looks like easier time recruiting

McKee stated that the 4 pillars is a strength

Eva Strid will there still be Upper Division/Lower Division distinctions

Gilson stated that the requirements will be ½ for transfer students doing Upper Division

Sharp asked what is the difference between 8 points upper and 8 points lower?

Gilson stated that it is the type of points

McKee suggested that we do full and ½ honors

Pohlman would love to eliminate Lower Division Honors

Houze suggested another maybe another designation
Balcerzak asked if this model dis-incentifies students from enrolling in honors courses.
Sharp stated that we do not have enough faculty, so this will help departments out as well
Pohlman asked if we have shown this to anyone outside honors. Are we piggy backing off departments in the university?
McHone-Chase likes how Honors students will be more involved
Sharp- Main issue will be communication
Jaworski likes the idea, but students will need a lot more guidance.
Pohlman – Student does 6 points courses, can they retro-active non-courses?
Gilson – Maybe for said year, but must be at NIU. Not while at another school
Balcerzak – how will staff track it: How do we know what a student does?
Pohlman makes his student do an overview of events
Evar Strid- How would we figure out “gray” activities?
Gilson- activities can-not be in 2 categories
McKee – Can we swap from pillar to another?
Gilson – No
Pohlman – could we emulate what Renique has done with DoIt to track info?
Sharp is for anything that pushes student outside of major
Gilson – 3 points must be outside major, but that’s ok think about the co-curricular
Sharp – Can see students not getting out of major
McKee – Can’t we keep seminar outside of major
Sharp – would go 2 points or 4 points outside of major
Pohlman – start at 3 and 3 and then re-adjust at the end of the year
Cisneros – it is a good structure for assessment purposes
Gilson would like to implement for Fall 2017, but more than likely Fall 2018.
McKee – can we do a dual Honors (cum laude) designation
Pohlman Resolution - A resolution is made by the Honors committee in support of the innovative Honors Model proposed as a result of staff strategic planning. The new model will encourage faculty-student engagement, offer diverse options to satisfy Honors requirements, and help recruit a cadre of highly qualified students to NIU.

VII. Comments from Floor

VIII. Adjournment

Evar Strid/Balcerzak motion to adjourn. Motion passed.