University Honors Program
Honors Committee – Agenda

3/3/2017 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Campus Life Building 110
351st Meeting
Approved

Voting Members Present: Bart Sharp (BUS), Nick Pohlman (EET), John Evar Strid (EDU), Sarah McHone-Chase (LIB), Scott Balcerzak (LAS), Mary Elaine Koren (HHS), Emily McKee (LAS)

Voting Members Absent: Rebecca Houze (VPA) I Younan an (Student), Rachel Shapland (Student), Charles Duval (Student), Clarissa Hinshaw (Student), Justyna Jaworski (Student)

Ex-officio Present: Todd Gilson (Honors)

Ex-officio Absent: Ed Klonoski (Vice Provost)

Others: Jason Goode (Honors), Jes Cisneros (Honors), Sam Gaul (Honors), Lexie Williams (Recording Clerk)

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

II. Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2016
   Koren and Strid commented on their names being misspelled.
   Koren moved to approve the minutes with the corrected names. Motion passed.

III. Staff Reports
   a. Director – Todd
      • Sam Gaul introduced as Assistant Director of Programming and Communication
      • Enrollment numbers. Deactivated inactive students, increase in incoming students for fall 2017.
      • Honors alumni affinity group. Graduated in the past several years and all agreed to join and contribute ideas and suggestions
         o Sharp asked about the affinity group details and members. Not all alumni will be invited to be a part of it
      • Telefund night went well. Pledges are promising. Pledges vs. money collected
      • Holding Meet the Director night at NIU Naperville on April 20
      • Staff title/position changes to Associate Directors to make things more vertical instead of horizontal
Pohlman asked if any of the committee members should attend April event. Gilson responded that they don’t want too many staff members to overwhelm the visitors.

b. Assistant Director – Jes
   - Reached out to advising staff in the various colleges for resources and materials to give to new students and at orientations
   - Advising changes for the various colleges about removal of common courses (ex. UBUS 310) and training the fellows on advising
   - Pennant project reaching out to alumni that have moved on to the work world instead of going straight to graduate school
   - Improving the information that comes out of the office so it is consistent and not overwhelming
   - Participation in Open Houses and Admitted Student Days
   - Gearing up for Honors Day and graduation
   - Met with Brittany Rios from HSA. Participation has gone down significantly.
   - Working with honors fellows to reformat mentoring program into professional development program

c. Associate Director for Scholarships, Programming and Assessment – Jason
   - Goldwater results still pending. Should be notified by the last week in March
   - Rachel Jacob selected as finalist for Truman scholarship. Interview 3/9 and 3/10. First Truman finalist that we’ve had to the best of Jason’s knowledge.

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Sam
   - Planning out what areas our current events are falling under and examining/filling any gaps
   - Finalizing more events for the rest of the semester- Epic Race, Minute to Win It, Life Hack
   - Working with Huskie Links to track progress of students’ honors engaged credits
     - Sharp asked about Huskie Links working with the new point system. Gilson responded that we’re beta testing it and deciding if we want to buy the license
   - Added another event for Honors House

IV. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Update
    Meeting will be at Fushi Yami. Mary Elaine Koren, Sarah McHone-Chase, Rebecca Houze planning to attend. Will be focusing on selection criteria.

V. Old Business
   a. Capstone innovation – I-Lab (MGMT 481 / CEET 481) – no update
   b. Honors strategic plan – “Listening Tour” has begun
i. Gilson is working on getting faculty, alumni, and students through various organizations. Will be fall 2018 because they have to go through curriculum. Pohlman asked if they would be getting feedback on requirements or positives/negatives. Gilson said they will be listening with an open mind and then presenting to faculty senate. Also working to raise the GPA for incoming students to 3.3 overall. Provost and Vice Provost approved.

c. Honors Faculty Status – feedback from Greg Long (11/14) and Baccalaureate Council (12/8)
   i. Sharp rewrote the proposal, will distribute and get feedback from the committee next meeting. Needs to be compelling and have a narrower focus while still including input from those involved. Sharp used comments from Greg Long and Bacc. Council comments were considered as appropriate. Pohlman clarified if Bacc. Council has a meeting in May for the proposal to be given for decision. Strid confirmed.

d. UHHS 399 – Honors Seminar (online) – HHS doctoral student working of course development (Todd providing guidance, as necessary)
   i. Gilson heard back from Beverly Henry, associate dean at HHS. HHS will be funding the doctoral student. The course will be a UHHS course. Gilson gave input on experience with online courses. Course will be something along the lines of “Interdisciplinary Healthcare Among Various Fields”.

VI. New Business
   a. Alumni Award
      i. Gilson brought up the spreadsheet for reference. McKee asked for clarification about what factors the award would be decided upon. McKee also asked if past history of awards would be considered to avoid gaps in diversity. McHone-Chase asked why there are different formats for top nominees. Gilson clarified that fellows completed the task differently. Sharp said in the past, the subcommittee narrowed down to about 8 and asked for more materials from the alumni. Typically there would be 2 frontrunners and one would be chosen for the current year, with the other getting the award the following year. Pohlman said the benefit of sending the letter and request early is that we would know they would be attending Honors Day. Sharp noted that this is a good way to re-engage individuals and get them more involved and excited again. Asked if anyone objects to using the 5 alumni chosen by fellows/staff to contact the individuals for availability and determine which would be able to attend. Sharp/McKee suggested adding a few back in because 8 or 9 alumni has been the norm.
Sharp input that looking at past award history is not an issue because there has been enough diversity.

b. Great Professor Award
   i. Sharp excused himself from the rest of the meeting for discussion. McHone-Chase offered to take place. McHone-Chase asked about more information for the nominees and mechanism for choosing. Pohlman clarified previous processes as being a discussion and then a decision. Strid and Pohlman input that Sharp is exceptionally involved and has been a member of the committee for 6 years. McKee asked for feedback on Valerie Garver. Gaul input that she knows Garver personally, but not professionally. Strid input that being on the committee is important for the nominee. Gilson noted that Garver was nominated last year and lost. Also pointed out that an ex-officio member winning the award would have questionable optics. Balcerzak asked for clarification on the reasons/contributions for decision. Ballantine input that Garver is an exceptional professor and it is difficult to compare because Sharp has contributed significantly to the program specifically. Pohlman stated concerns about the optics, but that Sharp has improved the program through Strategic Planning, course offering efforts throughout the various honors directors. Koren asked if two professors could be awarded. Strid pointed out the strength of Sharp’s application letter and various efforts and that Garver had one popular seminar course (Game of Thrones)- less of a contribution than Sharp. Cisneros noted that professors are expected to teach their seminars well, so Garver has not gone above and beyond. McKee asked for clarification on Garver’s previous honors courses. Ballantine noted he is not voting since he provided the recommendation for Sharp. Pohlman moved to nominate Sharp, Strid second. No opposition. Motion carried for Sharp to be nominee. McKee asked for clarification on the process moving forward. Pohlman clarified that Sharp has won and no further discussion is necessary. Gilson will notify both Sharp and Garver today or Monday.

VII. Comments from Floor

VIII. Adjournment

Strid motion to adjourn. Motion passed.