

BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL (BC)
Second Meeting/2022-23 Academic Year
October 13, 2022

SECTION D – Items reported for approval by another undergraduate curriculum committee

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University Honors Program

Proposed Honors Committee By-Law Change: UHON22.23.01.01 [NIU Policy Library](#)

Honors Committee
(Bylaws, Article 4.6.3)

Membership of HC

4.6.3 Honors Committee

4.6.3.1 Composition



(B) Student Representation

1. ~~Five student members shall be selected by all students enrolled in the honors program from among the students in the program, one to be nominated to serve on the Baccalaureate Council.~~ Five student members shall serve on the Honors Committee. Four of these shall be selected by all the students enrolled in the honors program from among the students in the program. The fifth student member shall be a recognized honors program student leader (e.g., lead honors fellow) appointed by the honors program director. One of these five students will be nominated to serve on the Baccalaureate Council.

Rationale: This change would help elevate and amplify the student voice on the committee, as it would now include a student leader with deep knowledge of program requirements and peer advising and mentorship responsibilities. Most students who serve on the HC would continue to be elected by the honors program students (80%), thus retaining that democratic engagement.

Often, we do not receive enough nominations to make for a competitive election; and the election is based largely on name recognition when we do have more than the minimum number of students to fill the necessary slots. On average, students on the committee participate rarely and often have little experience with the program. We don't want to discourage freshmen or newer students from participating, but it would be a useful counterweight to have an honors student leader present to provide a fuller view of the student experience in the honors program.