

University Honors Program Honors Committee – Agenda

2/2/2018 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Campus Life Building 110
357th Meeting
Approved

Voting Member Present: Lara Crowley (LAS), Emil McKee (LAS), Bart Sharp (BUS), Linda Taylor (HHS), Leanne VandeCreek (LIB), John Evar Strid (EDU), Nick Pohlman (EET), Patricia Skarbinski (VPA)

Student Voting Members Present: Brandon Valdez (Student), Nick Chapman (Student), Emily Fiala (Student)

Voting Members Absent: Kennedy Brister (Student), Jamie Wilson (Student), Aspen Wheeler (SAC Rep)

Ex-officio Present: Todd Gilson (Honors)

Ex-officio Absent: Ed Klonoski (Vice Provost)

Others present: Dave Ballantine (LAS), Edye Cowan (Honors), Jason Goode (Honors), Sam Gaul (Honors), Marcy Brown (Honors)

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - McKee and Strid moved to approve Agenda. Motion passed
- II. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2017
 - Sharp, Chapman moved to approve Minutes. Motion passed
- III. Staff Reports
 - a. Director – Todd
 - Enrollment numbers
 - See numbers presented at meeting (collected on the 1st of every month)
 - Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning introduction
 - Office Support Assistant position update
 - New Honors Program being communicated to campus stakeholders:
 - All colleges complete next month (EET on 3/6)
 - Continued visits to departments / advising offices
 - MarComm
 - New website – complete
 - Discussion ongoing on promotional material to develop
 - Registration and Records
 - Online tracking of students' progress within program discussion ongoing

- Orientation & Family Connections
 - Continued use of designated talk for prospective Honors students
 - Full page for University Honors in 2018-19 OneBook

- b. Associate Director for Scholarships, Programming and Assessment – Jason
 - National Scholarships and Fellowships
 - Goldwater – Aspen Wheeler | Thomas Corbett
 - Timeline = Deadline Jan. 31; late Feb apps reviewed; mid-March vote on scholars/honorable mentions; last Fri. Mar. scholars/honorable mentions announced at 11:00 am CST
 - AcademicWorks
 - Honors scholarships Close January 31st
 - McKearn Program
 - Booked alternative spring break trip for McKearn Fellows
 - Held Information sessions for Jan 23rd and 25th
 - Emailed all honors freshman with a 3.5 or higher GPA about the program
 - Updated the McKearn Brochure
 - McKearn Info session flyers (2) and 12 promotional all-year flyers created by Taylor for online advertisement
 - Newsletter draft went out
 - Admissions Presentations
 - Staffed Express orientation table w/ Sam to recruit students
 - Setup a prospective student visit with honors at 3:30 pm on Thurs. 1/25
 - Mortar Board
 - Audit bank statements and share them with the treasurer
 - Partnership meeting with FSYE & Faculty Senate regarding a first generation student's initiative
 - Website new website launched (joint venture)
 - Added the ICC and Capstone Workshop list to the honors website on the course information page

- c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

No report given, Edye introduced herself and gave some background.

- d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Sam
 - Fundraising
 - Potbelly 1/30 5:00p-8:00p

- Honors House
 - Spring semester trips
 - February- Medieval Times 2/2
 - March- Battle House Laser Combat 3/2
 - April- Brookfield Zoo 4/7
 - Change in DSTT
 - AMC Rental 4/29 (Overboard)
- Honors Engaged
 - “Un-Engaged” vs. “Engaged” status
 - Access to Honors-only scholarships
 - Preferred Program stickers
 - Honors Trips

IV. Old Business

- a. Honors Faculty Status – revised proposal (*tabled until Spring 2018 – review in March*)

Gilson will be pro-active and see what members of BACC Council would like and then bring ideas to the Honors Committee in March.

Strid asked if Non-Honors faculty can do ICC.

Sharp stated if necessary.

Strid asked would this benefit from a roll-out like the new program?

Gilson stated we have better backing for program than for Faculty Status

Ballantine stated that getting some backing from the offices at the Castle would help. He also suggested different forms for student assessment at the end of the semester, (faculty evaluations), and we need to stress the assessment component.

- b. Partnership with POLS on accelerated BA/MA program – complete

This is done and there is a dedicated web page. Gilson will be going to other departments with this model.

Ballantine asked how many departments have BA/MA programs?

Gilson stated 5 departments

Ballantine stated that you would not apply until your Junior year.

McKee asked if they had to accept Honors Students

Gilson stated that the students still had to meet ALL admission criteria.

V. New Business

- a. Formalized Honors faculty point-person in each department / school? (suggested by VPA)

McKee asked Do all departments have advisors, maybe that is who the point-person should be.

Sharp stated that Advisors are not always up to speed with Honors

Strid commented the EDU advisors don't know how Honors can be done with all the requirements.

McKee asked if we could maybe do pathways

Pohlman stated that the point person will not only need to know the academic side, but also the Engagement side as well

VI. Comments from Floor

- a. Textbook affordability – a program on Campus CIUIE is gathering information on how to make books more affordable. Possibly more available at the Library, a text book swap, text book rental
- b. Nick Pohlman and Bart Sharp have a partnership with NIU and Ideal Industries
 - i. Entrepreneur program
 - ii. Great for NIU students of all majors
 - iii. Ideal has jobs already committed to the program
 - iv. Sharp and Pohlman would like to recruit students across the university, in all majors

VII. Adjournment

Sharp and Crowley moved to adjourn. Motion passed.