

University Honors Program Honors Committee – Agenda

11/3/2017 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Campus Life Building 110
355th Meeting
Approved

Voting Members Present: Bart Sharp (BUS), Emily McKee (LAS), Timothy Crowley (LAS), Kendra Holton (VPA stand-in for Patricia Skarbinski),

Student (Voting members): Brandon Valdez, Emily Fiala, Nick Chapman, Kennedy Brister, Jamie Wilson

Voting Members Absent: Patricia Skarbinski (VPA), Nick Pohlman (EET), Linda Taylor (HHS), Leanne BandeCreek (LIB), John Evar Strid (EDU), Aspen Wheeler (STUDENT)

Ex-officio Present: Todd Gilson (Honors)

Ex-officio Absent: Ed Klonoski (Vice Provost)

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

- I. Approval of Agenda
McKee moved to approve agenda as presented. Motion passed
- II. Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2017
Chapman moved to approve the October 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 position update
NIU Alumni Association and Honors externship to be (re-)launched over winter break
Nine (9) mentors in the fields of law, wealth management, educational administration, pharmaceuticals, and health care
11 students to be matched with mentors
Story in NIU Today
 - Attending National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) from November 8-12
Rachel Shapland and Lauren Greene presenting *Student-run leadership and student engagement: Serving on an honors council* with Honors students from Northwestern State University
 - Partnership with POLS on 3+2 acceleration MS program

POLS faculty unanimously approved reserving three (3) spots for Honors students in this program – formal catalog change pending

- b. Associate Director for Scholarships, Programming and Assessment – Jason
 - National Scholarships and Fellowships
 - Emma Harvey | Mitchell
 - Rachel Jacob, Margaret (Maggie) Miller, Leah Harvey, & Jayson Shiao | Marshall
 - Rachel Jacob – Rhodes
 - Rachel Jacob – Gates Cambridge
 - AcademicWorks Advisory Board
 - Meeting of super users to form a campus support committee
 - McKearn Program – Updates to staff page
 - Website – Honors Engaged criteria, course information page
 - Admissions Presentations
 - UNIV 101
- c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – vacant
- d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Sam
 - Fundraising
 - Chipotle 11/28 4:00pm-8:00pm
 - Honors House
 - iPanic Escape Rooms 11/10 (last trip of the semester)
 - How To... Workshops
 - Yoga Session (relaxation) November
 - Don't Stress the Test: Carnival Theme, 12/6
 - Course book completed and sent to students

IV. Old Business

- a. Honors Faculty Status – revised proposal
 - Chapman: Do we have a failsafe?
 - Sharp: It is still at the discretion of the Department
 - Chapman: On Board with it
 - McKee: how do we feel about a 4 out of 5 evaluation
 - Fiala: A lot of peers don't put effort into evaluations
 - so they can leave class early
 - Sharp/Wilson: Look into additional components: Letters of Recommendation
 - Gilson: We need to keep in mind the bandwidth
 - Ballantine: Letters of Recommendation from Department. Departments have access to student evaluations
 - McKee: Rewrite bullet point about course evaluation. Indicate other teaching evidence.
 - Sharp: Strong objection to taking another run?
 - Gilson: Not until Spring semester

Sharp: Table as is for now.

V. New Business

a. Honors Program policies and procedures:

CURRENT	NEW PROGRAM (FALL 2018)
Students must take ≥ 1 Honors course per semester to remain in good standing in the program	Students must earn ≥ 1 point per semester to remain in good standing in the program
Students can complete a non-enrollment form for a semester when no Honors courses are available	Elimination of non-enrollment forms
No limit to number of in-course contracts students can perform	Students are allowed a maximum of one (1) in-course contract during their life in the program
In-course contract can only be completed at the 300- or 400-level	In-course contracts will be available regardless of course designation level (i.e., 100-, 200-, 300-, or 400-level)
Students must successfully complete the seminar requirement in a department outside of their declared major	Students can complete the seminar requirements in any class
Students can transfer in ≤ 15 Honors credits from other institutions	Students can transfer in ≤ 6 Honors curricular points from other institutions (<i>student would still be required to complete seminar, capstone, and Engage Plus Gold status for Full University Honors</i>)
Once inactive or withdrawing from the program, students can be reactivated one time	No change

McKee, Sharp believe seminar is depth.

Chapman: Why a limit on In-Course-Contracts

Gilson: It is not the Honors experience

Ballantine: Honors is not more work, it is more of an experience

Sharp: We need to maintain cross coursework for seminar

McKee: Is there a reluctance in advising when it comes to seminar?

Gilson: Students are informed of the seminar upon program entry

Valdez: Students feel it is extra work with no reward. Some college advisors suggest students not take seminar

VI. Comments from Floor

Valdez: Honors House residents having issues receiving the weekly update.

VII. Adjournment

Chapman motioned to adjourn. Motion passed.