University Honors Program
Honors Committee – Minutes

02/7/2020 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Campus Life Building 110
371st Meeting
Minutes
Approved

Voting Members Present: Tim Crowley (LAS), Grace Dvorak (Student), Ibis Gomez-Vega (BC), Barbara Gonzalez (LAS), Nick Hryhorczuk (HHS), Kate James (Student), Nick Pohlman (EET), Leslie Sassone (EDU), Scot Schraugnagel (LAS), Bart Sharp (BUS), Cameron Simpson (Student), Patricia Skarbinski (VPA), Leanne VandeCreek (LIB)

Voting Members Absent: Anthony Acevedo (Student), Gerardo Caballero Manriquez (SAC), Elaina Kinney (Students)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

Ex-Officio Absent: Omar Grayeb (Vice Provost)

Others Present: Dave Ballantine (LAS), Marcy Brown (Honors), Linda Condon (Honors), Edye Cowan (Honors), Jason Goode (Honors), Connie Storey (Honors)

I. Approval of Agenda
Sassone moved, Crowley second, motion approved

II. Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2019
Dvorak moved, Simpson second, motion approved

III. Staff Reports
a. Director – Andrea (Honors on MyNIU student audit; website & engagement updates)
   i. Faculty Newsletter
   ii. Audits on MyNIU
   iii. Updated Website
   iv. Externship finished (10 completed)
b. Scholarships – Jason
   i. National Fellowships
      1. Goldwater
         a. Jill Belluomini
         b. Matt McCoy
      2. NSF GRFP (announces in April)
         a. Ryan Lewis
         b. Nickie Hoffman
         c. Mustafa Thahab
ii. Scholarship related
   1. Alum scholarship reviewer webinar
   iii. McKearn information session and webinar

c. Academic programs/advising – Edye/Linda
   i. Advising
      1. Honors Engaged
         a. 63 applications Pending
         b. 30 awarded points
         c. 11 Denied
         d. New Opportunities
            i. Honors Connect
            ii. Professional Development Boot Camp

2. In-Course Contracts
   a. Spring 2020 Submissions
      i. 30 approved
      ii. Waiting on 9 faculty/chair approvals
   b. Informational videos on Faculty Resources page

3. Capstones
   a. New Electronic Submission Process for Capstone Proposals
   b. Spring 2020 Submissions
      i. 52 submitted
         ii. Waiting on 11 faculty/chair approvals
   c. Capstone Reception February 20, 2020 - 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
   d. Updating Capstone Process
      i. Awards given in same semester
      ii. Expand award categories
      iii. Nominations for Outstanding Capstone & Faculty Mentor
         iv. Display nominated posters/projects at Honors Day, April 19

4. Student Support
   a. Jump Start Your Honors Journey - Thursday, February 13, 2020 – 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

ii. Academic Advising Council
   1. Advising Week February 10-14, 2020
      a. Monday, February 10 – NACADA Presentations
      b. Tuesday, February 11 - Webinar
      c. Wednesday, February 12 – Honors Informational Session for Academic Advisors - 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., CLB 110

iii. Thursday, February 13 – Advisor Social

   d. Programming and Communication – Connie
i. Trips/Events
   1. Battle House 1/31-done!
   2. V-day cars & cookies, Jumpstart your journey 2/13
   3. Escape Room (2/21)-booked
   4. Murder Mystery (March)
   5. Baseball Game (April)
   6. Honors Bash 5/1

ii. Luminary
   1. Articles are almost complete, still getting a few items

IV. Old Business
   a. Honors Faculty Fellowship update
      i. 13 Proposals
         1. New Faculty applied for courses that have not taught honors before

V. New Business
   a. Lincoln Laureate changes for H.C.
      i. Honors Committee to begin reviewing applications for Lincoln Laureate
         beginning Fall 2020
      ii. Possible call out for nominations in the Spring Semester to prepare chairs
           and faculty
      iii. Does faculty have to travel if their nomination wins?
   b. Introduction of Faculty Mentors/Advisor (CEET pilot with Nick)

Honors Faculty Mentors
Engineering Pilot

Who

Each major appoints an Honors Faculty Mentor to serve a two-year renewable term.

Role

Help ensure that students are progressing in the Honors Program in ways that are meaningful to
their academic and professional development. While the professional Honors Advisors will
continue to be the main locus for administering the Honors Program and ensuring that students
are informed about and completing their Honors requirements, Honors Faculty Mentors will
provide academic support and help students choose courses, capstone topics/advisors, co-
curricular experiences that promote student enrichment and success in ways that dovetail with
major requirements and goals (but also to stretch outside of major, where possible).

As well as aiding students to be successful in their major and in Honors, Honors Faculty
Mentors serve as a resource to fellow faculty who are providing “H” courses/contracts/mini-
sections. Faculty Mentors, together with the University Honors Program, will work to ensure
that all curricular experiences with Honors designation meet high standards of engagement and enrichment.

Best practices

- When an engineering student joins Honors, they should meet with Honors Advisor and Engineering/Departmental Faculty Mentor.
- Subsequently, they should meet at least once per semester.
- Faculty advisor serve as resource in choosing H courses and experiences, especially capstone.

Faculty Advisor Training

Onboarding faculty involves a one- or two-hour workshop where University Honors staff provides an orientation of the UHP requirements, procedures, and resources.

Monthly newsletters and other updates will be provided - including courses and opportunities that may appeal to Engineering students.

End-of-semester meetings and/or surveys/feedback mechanisms to ensure good communication and improvements based on Honors Faculty Advisor experiences.

i. Mentors serve as resource for more than advising
ii. Intent is to remove advising confusion

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment Gonzalez moved, Crowley second, motion approved
   a. Next meeting – March 6th