

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 Schraugnel (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 – Edey/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