

University Honors Program Honors Committee

5/1/2020 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Teams online meeting
373rd Meeting
Minutes
Approved

Voting Members Present: Ibis Gomez-Vega (BC), Barbara Gonzalez(LAS), Nick Hryhorczuk (HHS), Elaina Kinney (Student), Nick Pohlman (EET), Leslie Sassone (EDU), Scot Schraufnagel (LAS), Bart Sharp (BUS), Cameron Simpson (Student), Patricia Skarbinski (VPA)

Voting Members Absent: Anthony Acevedo (Student), Tim Crowley (LAS), Grace Dvorak (Student), Kate James (Student)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu

Ex-Officio Absent: Omar Ghrayeb

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

- I. Approval of Agenda
Gonzalez moved/ Sharp second. Motion passed
- II. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2020
Skarbinski motioned, Kinney second. Motion passed
- III. Staff Reports
 - a. Director – Andrea
 - i. Enrollment numbers
 1. Enrollment – re-registration, admissions FY21
 - ii. Continuing COVID-19 Efforts/Contingency Planning
 1. Much of reporting from April continues to be relevant: staff still operating remotely; communication strategies with students continue to evolve (summer orientation communication has been a big focus)
 2. Admitted Student Day video shot and used.
 3. Grades and notations
 4. Planning online versions of our community building efforts (e.g., Honors Bash)
 5. Coordinating online seminar training.
 6. Continuing opportunities for students, such as externships, without the possibility of face to face.

7. Rescheduled Honors Day: August 1st, 5pm; in jeopardy as ongoing pandemic woes continue; thinking through online contingencies.
 8. Taft online? We are beginning planning for it just in case (Platform Q).
- iii. LAS Departmental Honors/UHP coordination.
 1. The issue is not to interfere or align missions. Rather, it is to ensure clarity. D. Ballantine and I are working on the following:
 - a. Clarifying coursework that certain departments are calling “H” or honors courses that are not part of UHP.
 - b. Clarifying language. Encouraging departments to stick to “departmental degree with honors” rather than the confusing language about various “honors programs.”
 - c. Including clarifying statements regarding the differences between the two types of programs both in the undergraduate catalog (with respect to departments) and on the UHP site.
 2. Execution is within the scope of LAS curricular processes. Dave to report at meeting.
 - iv. Other Ongoing Business/ Plans.
 1. Assessment. May assessment due; planning for five-year assessment report due in fall.
 2. Honors grading (discussion document circulated), to be discussed at meeting.
 3. Alumni engagement. Streamlining Luminary; adding alumni newsletter; Linked In, etc.
 4. Streamlining Honors team members job areas -Jason and Connie.
 5. Looking for next curricular innovation avenue (NEH opportunity announced in the May Faculty Newsletter)
- b. Associate Director for Scholarships, Programming and Assessment – Jason
 - i. McKearn
 1. Interviewed and selected 5 new fellows
 - ii. Honors Scholarships
 1. Awarding 82 recipients
 2. Awarding 3 grad fee app reimbursements
 - iii. Honors Scholars
 - iv. National Fellowships
 1. NSF GRFP (announces in April)
 - a. Ryan Lewis
 - b. Nickie Hoffman
 - c. Mustafa Thahab

- c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edey
 - i. Advising
 - 1. Honors Fellows – Meeting May 1, 2020
 - 2. Virtual Admitted Student Days (4/20, 4/25)
 - 3. Capstone & ICC Workshops – Final workshops for this semester 4/28 & 4/30
 - ii. Orientation – Virtual Summer 2020
 - 1. Live Sessions for students and families (5/20, 6/15, 7/13)
 - 2. Group Advising Sessions 4:00 p.m. every Orientation day
 - 3. Platform Q
 - 4. Communication details in process
 - iii. Honors Engaged
 - 1. 2019/20 Academic Year
 - a. 131 Awarded points
 - b. 24 Pending Approval
 - c. 16 Denied
 - iv. Capstones
 - 1. Due May 3, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. CT
 - a. PDF to honors@niu.edu
 - b. Upload copy to Huskie Commons
 - c. Virtual Capstone Presentations to Honors Staff – April 30, 2020
 - v. Spring 2020 Capstone Award Winners
 - 1. Outstanding Capstone Mentor
 - a. Katherine Coulter, Nursing
 - b. Jennifer Jacobs, Kinesiology and Physical Education
 - 2. Outstanding Capstone
 - a. STEM- Mark Banovetz "The Effects of Bilateral Chemical Labyrinthectomy on Mouse Exploratory Behavior" advised by Doug Wallace
 - b. Health – Julia Altemus "The Impact of “Stop the Bleed” on Nursing Students at Northern Illinois University" advised by Katherine Coulter
 - c. Humanities – Keeley Shouldel "The Evolution of Korean Costume: Urban Korean Women's Shift From Traditional to Western Clothing in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945" advised by Natalie Joy

- d. Social Science – Justine Ewald "Social Media: Its Effects on Female Digital Natives" advised by Joseph Scudder
- e. Community Engagement – Benjamin Lee "BAE (Belizeans Advocating for Equity) Sports Summit 2020" advised by Jennifer Jacobs
- vi. Spring 2020 Capstone Award Nominees
 - 1. Capstone Mentor
 - a. Todd Buck, Art & Design
 - b. Katja Wiemer, Psychology
 - c. Tim Crowley, English
- vii. Outstanding Capstone
 - a. Humanities - Khadija Sadia
 - b. Social Science - Krystyana Ritacco
 - c. Community Engagement - Magda Nicolas Estrada
 - d. Social Science - Ania Waclawiak
 - e. Social Science - Abigail Burke
 - f. Social Science - Elizabeth Korbut
 - g. STEM - Eugene Ciesla
 - h. Health - Hayley Pucel
 - i. STEM - Nathanael Dille
 - j. Social Science - Quinn Carolan

- d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Connie
 - i. Trips/Events
 - 1. Honors Bash 5/1 – will now be held as a virtual event
 - 2. We hosted a Digital Diplomacy Video Series 4/20-4/24
 - ii. Luminary
 - 1. We have a first draft and will be starting to make some cuts and add in missing details
 - iii. Faculty Newsletter – Came out yesterday (5/1/2020) or Today (5/2/2020), please check your email
- e. Fundraisers
 - i. Pizza Villa (\$60)
 - ii. Ollies-canceled, they closed 3/31/2020 and we were scheduled 4/7, we will reschedule for when they open in the fall hopefully.
 - iii. Portillo's (4/2 made \$40, which will be 4, \$10 gift certificates)

IV. Old Business

- a. Honors program/LAS departmental Honors update
 - i. Needs Consistent language that applies to the individual departments
 - ii. Needs to be approved by each department curriculum committee

- iii. Departments need to help distinguish between department and University Honors Program
- iv. Courses need to be labeled better to differentiate between Departmental Honors and University Honors Program
- v. Clarification of language
- vi. Sharp and Gonzalez are opposed to unifying Departmental and University Honors
 - 1. University Honors offers more breadth
 - 2. Departmental is more focused on department

V. New Business

- a. Honors Scholar Applications
 - i. Cameron Clark, Isabella Guizzetti, Jill Belloumini applied for Honors Scholars
Sharp moved to approve all 3, Gonzalez second, motion passed
- b. Honors grading discussion
 - i. What does the “H” mean?
 - ii. Is the goal to standardize all “H”s in courses
 - iii. Professors just have Honors do more, not more engaged, or enriching
 - iv. Taking mini-sections, positive note on more embedded graded policy,
 - v. There is concern on how a “B” in an honors course will look on a transcript.

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment

Sharp moved/Sassone second. Motion passed