

University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

2/4/2022 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Teams online meeting
385th Meeting
Approved

Voting Members Present: Brian Acosta (STU), Rachel Cormier (STU), Trude Jacobsen (CLAS), Ayanna Johnson (STU), Natalie Joy (CLAS), Melanie Koss (COE), Alicia Larouech (STU), DeeAnna Phares (LIB), Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Barton Sharp (BUS), Ches Thurber (LAS), Leif Verace (STU), Melissa Walter (CHHS)

Voting Members Absent: Jeremy Floyd (CVPA)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

Ex-Officio Absent: Omar Ghrayeb (Vice Provost)

Others Present: Edye Cowan (Honors), Jason Goode (Honors), Patty Lee (Honors), Connie Storey (Honors)

- I. Approval of Agenda
Barton Sharp moved, Melanie Koss second, motion passed.
- II. Approval of Minutes from December 3rd, 2021
Ches Thurber moved, Melanie Koss second, motion passed.
- III. Staff Reports
 - A. Director – Andrea Radasanu
 1. Notable ongoing projects January/February:
 - a. Honors Faculty Fellowship management for 22/23 apps.
 - i. Crowley – Ideas and Ideals in Classical Epic Poetry: Homer and Virgil
 - ii. Fickling – Work, Meaning, and Wellness (Rachowicz fellow)
 - iii. Polansky – Data and Social Justice
 - iv. Vazquez and Gur – Innovation, Social Equity, and Entrepreneurship in Media
 - v. Jones – Spies, Lies, and Secret Wars: CIA
 - vi. Sharp – Social Psychology of God
 - vii. Radasanu – What’s So Funny? The Politics of Humor
 - viii. Nguyen and Pohlman – Technology Adoptions in the 21st Century: Affordable Access or Intrusive Invasion?

- ix. Gallaher – Environmental Justice
- x. Wright – Using Sport to Promote Justice and Equity
- xi. Stuart – Income Inequality in the 21st Century
- xii. Kron – Human Genetics and Evolution
- xiii. Schatteman – The Power of Women’s Philanthropy: Changing Lives, Leading Movements, Serving Communities
- xiv. Interdisciplinary Health?
- b. Honors course instructor evaluation consent/course evaluation project (completed)
- c. Suitable onboard – Efficient tracking system
- d. Presidential recruitment event – 600+ admitted students applied, 10 will be selected
- e. Research projects completed: NCHC monograph chapter on student engagement; capstone coordination between honors and departments; HIP accepted admissions project part 2
- f. Advisory board prep
- g. New fellowship program planning (Rising Scholars)
- h. Spring co-curricular planning -including Barsema leadership workshops.

B. Associate Director for Scholarships & Fellowships– Jason Goode

- 1. National Fellowships
 - a. Rising Scholars
 - i. Program
 - ii. Website
- 2. Honors Scholarships
 - a. Alumni volunteer training
 - b. 113 volunteers
- 3. McKearn – application pool is open; CODE workshops are going well
 - a. Cultural competency course
 - b. Research presentation

C. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye Cowan

- 1. Advising
 - a. Planning for fall 2022 Orientation – In person and virtual events
 - b. Presidential Scholarship Event – 1/27/22
 - c. Upcoming Events
 - i. Continuing Student Recruitment - virtual sessions – 2/8/22 (30 students signed up) & 2/9/22 (15 students signed up)
 - ii. Community College Articulation Conference – 2/25/22
 - iii. HCIR Student Symposium – 2/26/22
 - d. Fall 2022 Course Book
 - i. Enter courses by 2/18/22
 - ii. Posted on website mid-March – registration begins 4/4/22
- 2. Honors Engaged

- a. Applications
 - i. Approved – 312
 - ii. Denied – 17
- b. Engaged Events
 - i. Engagement Panel – 1/25/22
 - ii. Capstone Boot Camp Workshops – 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/24, 3/31
- 3. Capstones/ICCs
 - a. Capstone and ICC Proposals Due January 30, 2022
 - i. As of 1/31/22 – 50 capstone proposals submitted
 - ii. As of 1/31/22 – 15 ICC proposals submitted
 - b. Upcoming Capstone & ICC Workshops posted online – https://www.niu.edu/honors/_pdf/icc-capstone-workshops.pdf
- 4. Honors Fellows
 - a. Meeting – 1/28/22
 - b. Evaluations
 - c. Lounge Area

D. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Connie Storey

- 1. Events
 - a. CODE (Tuesdays in Feb.)
 - b. Battle House laser combat – 2/11
 - c. Serving Up Knowledge – 2/16?
 - d. Medieval Times – 3/5
 - e. Murder Mystery – 3/31
 - f. Honors Bash – 5/6
- 2. Fundraising
 - a. Beef Shack \$30 gift card (three \$10 cards)
- 3. Luminary
 - a. One editor leaving NIU – any student writer recommendations
- 4. Newsletter
 - a. Will go out mid-February

IV. Old Business

- A. Honors Course evaluations (see report) – To deploy this instrument to survey students on a semester basis with an opportunity to revise by the subcommittee and then continue in all future semesters. Trude Jacobsen moved, Barton Sharp second, motion passed.

V. New Business

- A. HON human diversity/ writing infused applications
 - 1. “Technology Adoptions of the 21st Century: Affordable Access or Intrusive Invasion?” (Human Diversity), Instructors Christine Nguyen and Nicholas Pohlman – Melanie Koss moved, Barton Sharp second, motion passed.

2. “Data and Social Justice” (Writing Infused), Instructor Alan M. Polansky – Ches Thurber moved, Barton Sharp second, motion passed.
 3. “Data and Social Justice” (Human Diversity), Instructor Alan M. Polansky – Barton Sharp moved, DeeAnna Phares second, motion passed.
 4. “Income & Wealth Inequality in the 21st Century” (Human Diversity), Instructor Ellen Stuart – Melanie Koss moved, Melissa Walter second, motion passed
 5. “Income & Wealth Inequality in the 21st Century” (Writing Infused), Instructor Ellen Stuart – Trude Jacobsen motioned, Natalie Joy second, motion passed
 6. “Innovation, Social Equity, and Entrepreneurship in Media” (Human Diversity), Instructors Laura Vazquez and Furkan Gur – Melanie Koss moved, Barton Sharp second, motion passed
- B. Rising Scholar Program (National Fellowships; informational) – Jason
1. Website/Teams with introductory section, video (What is a Fellowship), and resources
 2. Students with 3.0+ GPA will be invited to participate in Rising Scholars

VI. Comments from Floor

- A. None

VII. Adjournment at 3:04 p.m.

Meeting adjourned by logging off.