

# University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

9/3/2021 @ 1:30p – 3:30p  
Teams online meeting  
381<sup>st</sup> Meeting  
Approved

Voting Members Present: Jeremy Floyd (CVPA), Natalie Joy (CLAS), Melanie Koss (COE), DeeAnna Phares (LIB), Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Barton Sharp (BUS), Ches Thurber (LAS), Melissa Walter (CHHS)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

Ex-Officio Absent: Omar Ghrayeb (Vice Provost)

Others Present: Linda Condon (Honors), Edey Cowan (Honors), Jason Goode (Honors), Patty Lee (Honors), Connie Storey (Honors)

- I. Election of new Honors Committee faculty chair – Bart nominated Nicholas Pohlman, DeeAnna second, motion passed
- II. Approval of Agenda – Melanie moved, Barton second, motion passed
- III. (No approval of minutes; April's were approved in May, and in May, reports were posted but no new meeting took place)
- IV. Staff Reports
  - A. Director – Andrea  
Introduction of Honors Program, Committee and commitments
    1. Notable ongoing projects:
      - a. Orientation migrating entirely to Slate – Admissions/Orientations; Assessment plans every 5 years
      - b. Honors Connect move to Presence
        - i. 331 Engaged points earned compared to 143 points from the previous year
        - ii. 53 events last year
        - iii. Honors Connect is automated which began in spring 2020
      - c. Enrollment/recruitment/yield
        - i. 176 Honor Program students graduated in FY21
        - ii. Phasing out Lower Division, Upper Division and University Honors
      - d. Taft planning
      - e. Management of OSEEL: preparation of course-based student research project

- f. Engagement planning (DeKalb partnership, revamping civic engagement, etc.)
    - g. Preparing annual report, gathering assessment data
  - 2. Enrollment numbers
    - a. Enrollment – re-registration, admissions FY22, orientation results
  - 3. Annual Report
    - a. Please view the annual report completed in June, which details outcomes for last fiscal year, and goals going forward
  - 4. Summer update
    - a. Emphasis on building engagement opportunities. Revamped new civic engagement suite, including ongoing community engagement opportunity.
    - b. Developed new Job Shadowing program with Alumni Association. Launching this fall.
    - c. Welcoming students in three parts (Taft, Jonamac, engagement panel). Taft had 88 students including six McKearn’s attended this event. Jonamac had over 100 students in attendance.
    - d. 2020-21 cohort success study; tweaking of admission rubric, writing follow-up study for HIP
    - e. Assessment improvements: pre and post engagement attitudinal study, university support re first destinations survey
    - f. Orientation on Slate; process overhaul through spring and summer
    - g. OSEEL management, ongoing; CRE project
    - h. Participation in AVP hiring
    - i. Successful online fundraising campaign
      - i. Summer - Day of Giving \$4,000 almost 40 new donors
      - ii. November - Thousand Strong
      - iii. Huskies United

B. Associate Director for Scholarships & Fellowships– Jason

- 1. National Fellowships
  - a. What are National Fellowships? 8/25 (submitted) – two
  - b. Apply today: Rhodes, Gates, Marshall, Mitchell or NSF (new to help applicants complete their application in the fall) 9/2 @ 3 pm
  - c. Goldwater STEM and other fellowships 10/7 @ 3 pm
  - d. Application Essentials and the personal Statement 10/16
  - e. Letters of Recommendation – (1 part series) 11/6
  - f. NAFA Conference – e conference. Rising Scholars Program – Lunch with high GPAs to introduce to apply
- 2. McKearn
  - a. ILAS 440H – Newsletter on website
  - b. Taft
  - c. Newsletter (spring)
  - d. Enrichment Funds
- 3. Honors Scholarships

- a. Ambassador plan – Record video testimonies, fundraiser ideas

C. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

- 1. Advising
  - a. Orientation – met with 329 students
    - i. 243 freshmen
    - ii. 86 transfers
  - b. Taft - 2 sessions
    - i. 88 students attended (43 on Thursday and 45 on Friday)
    - ii. 17 faculty attended
- 2. Honors Engaged
  - a. Final 2020/2021 numbers
    - i. Approved – 377
    - ii. Denied – 26
  - b. Business Majors – Completed Business Passport equals one Honors Engaged point
- 3. Capstones/In-Course Contracts - Proposals Due 9/5/21
- 4. Honors Fellows – 12 (6 returning, 6 new)
  - a. Assigned Mentees
    - i. Freshmen entering NIU fall 2021 & admitted to Honors Program
    - ii. Students paired with mentor at Taft
  - b. In-person shifts - five hours/week
  - c. Discord study groups
  - d. Serving Up Knowledge Workshops - 9/13 & 10/5
- 5. SIU leadership exchange

D. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Connie

- 1. Events
  - a. Jonamac Welcome event 8/28 – 100+ people!
  - b. CODE workshops (September)
  - c. Six Flags Fright Fest 9/18 – 30 tickets
  - d. Haunted Corn Maze (October) – Jonamac
  - e. Alumni Trivia Night - Kahoot 9/29 at 8 p.m.
  - f. Hire a trip coordinator
- 2. Luminary
  - a. Advertise for writers and editor soon – Engage point for student as editor
- 3. Newsletter
  - a. Went out in August before classes, we will have another one out mid-September

V. Old Business

- A. None

VI. New Business

- A. Lincoln Laureate faculty sub-committee – (Jason) Accepting nominations through 9/10
  - 1. Submit recommendation and nomination letters
  - 2. Review applications by 9/15
  - 3. Setup interviews 9/16-17
  - 4. Need help with interviews during 9/20-24
- B. Human diversity designation – (Andrea) 3 courses qualifies for this designation (attached)
  - 1. Indigenous Illinois by Bardolph and Joy - Bart moved, DeeAnna second, motion passed
  - 2. The Political Spectacle of Undocumented Immigrants by Cohen - Jeremy moved, Bart second, motion passed
  - 3. An Exploration of Racism, Sexism, and Other Isms in Disney Animated films by Koss – Jeremy moved, DeeAnna second, motion passed
- C. Honors evaluations sub-committee – (Andrea)
  - 1. Evaluate honor courses as honor courses
  - 2. Colleagues give ideas
- D. Honors Teaching Teams group – (Andrea)
  - 1. Pedagogy
  - 2. Share Syllabus and successes

VII. Comments from Floor

- A. None

VIII. Adjournment

Melanie moved, Bart second, motion passed