University Honors Program
Honors Committee Minutes

9/3/2021 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
Teams online meeting
381st 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), Edye 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
   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 honors 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