

# University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

10/1/2021 @ 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Teams online meeting  
382<sup>nd</sup> 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: Linda Condon (Honors), Jason Goode (Honors), Patty Lee (Honors), Connie Storey (Honors)

- I. Approval of Agenda  
Brian Acosta moved, Trude Jacobsen second, motion passed.
- II. Approval of Minutes from September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
Melanie Koss moved, DeAnna Phares second, motion passed.
- III. Staff Reports
  - A. Director – Andrea Radasanu
    1. Faculty Lunch and Learn Flyer by Dr. Becky Bott-Knutson – Spread the news about this event on October 7 at noon
    2. Donation with 5-year commitment
    3. Notable ongoing projects this month:
      - a. Lincoln Laureate process
      - b. HON capstone
      - c. SMOO and civic engagement fall calendar rolling
      - d. Course evaluation project
      - e. Admission marketing and applications
      - f. New faculty fellowship idea/ updates to RFP process for fellows
      - g. Transfer institution meeting/ transfer recruitment
      - h. Catalog updates without “points”
      - i. Updates to course solicitations and other website overhaul
  - B. Associate Director for Scholarships & Fellowships– Jason Goode
    1. Lincoln Laureate – Selected a student Laureate after applications and interviews
    2. National Fellowships
      - a. Workshops

- i. What are National Fellowships? 9/25 (submitted)
      - ii. Apply today: Rhodes, Gates, Marshall, Mitchell or NSF (new to help applicants complete their application in the fall) 9/2 @ 3 p.m.
    - b. Committee work
  - 3. McKearn
    - a. ILAS 440H
  - 4. Honors Scholarships
    - a. Ambassador plan – Help with fundraising, network, social media and testimonials
- C. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye Cowan/Linda Condon
- 1. Advising
    - a. Recruitment – Emailed out to current NIU students and held two info sessions
    - b. Spring registration begins November 1 – Work on Course book
    - c. Informal exchange with Community Colleges to discuss transfer population
    - d. Open House with English 10/4
    - e. NIU Preview Day 10/11
      - i. Resource Fair
      - ii. Afternoon presentations
    - f. Sent out progress updates to all honors students
  - 2. Honors Engaged
    - a. 2021/2022 numbers
      - i. Approved – 54
      - ii. Denied – 1 (duplicate of an earlier application)
  - 3. Honors Fellows
    - a. New Fellows are leading advising appointments now
    - b. Salute to Illinois Scholars 9/29
    - c. Serving Up Knowledge Workshop 10/5
    - d. SIU/NIU Leadership Exchange 10/4-10/8 – Led by Kat
- D. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Connie Storey
- 1. Events
    - a. Six Flags Fright Fest 9/18-beautiful day and trip!
    - b. Serving Up Knowledge 10/5, 12:45 p.m.-1:30 p.m. [Teams](#)
    - c. Faculty Lunch and Learn with Dr. Bott-Knutson: The Benefits of Teaching in Honors 10/7, 12-1 p.m. on [Zoom](#)
    - d. Haunted Corn Maze 10/29
    - e. Serving Up Knowledge 11/3
    - f. Syco Escape Rooms and Northern Axeposure 11/12
    - g. Midterms therapy dogs or Mini Mish and S'mores to go! Oct 11 at 6 p.m. by New Hall
  - 2. Luminary (2 applied)
    - a. Need more writers, please refer students who are great writers!
  - 3. Newsletter
    - a. Went out this week, let me know if you did not get it

IV. Old Business

A. None

V. New Business

- A. Seminar theme – Ideas include resiliency, Innovation, progression, transformation, equity and justice
- B. Honors course evaluations – Propose an Honors course evaluation from students on assessment
- C. HON capstone proposal – Provide more flexibility for students who want to go outside of their major. Melanie moved, Trude second, motion carried.
- D. Catalog cleanup (points language) – The Academic Requirements Report tracks courses, experiences and electives, which the student can access in MyNIU. Trude moved, Melanie second, motion passed for catalog language change.
- E. New faculty fellow idea – Honors Faculty Ambassador is onboarded for a year for a stipend and is responsible for three faculty development workshops

VI. Comments from Floor

Thank you to the Honors Program for doing a great job.

VII. Adjournment – 2:57 p.m.

Barton Sharp moved, Trude Jacobsen second, motion passed