

University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

2/2/2023 @ 1:30p – 3:30p

In-person/ remote option available

402nd Meeting

Voting Members Present: Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Barton Sharp (BUS), DeeAnna Phares (ULIB), Damien Fernandez (HIST), Melissa Walter (CHHS), Ches Thurber (CLAS), Trude Jacobsen Gidaszewski (CLAS), Larry Lurio (LAS), Brandon Olsen (Student rep), Diana Alvarez (Student rep), Melanie Koss (EDU)

Voting members absent: Jeremy Floyd (CVPA), Sadey Havel (Lead Fellow), Jonah Parra (Student rep), Molly Schmidt (Student rep)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

Others Present: Edye Cowan (Honors), Connie Storey (Honors) Ashlyn Straka (Honors), Ryan Downum (Honors) & April Buckley (Honors)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Unanimous

- II. Approval of Minutes (December 2023 meeting)
 - a. Unanimous

- III. Staff Report
 - a. Director – Andrea
Projects/News:
 - a. Personnel: Ryan has arrived!
 - b. Suitable development – seeking campus expansions/ integrations.
 - c. Admission/recruitment –Presidential Scholarship event.
 - d. Engagement Roundtable participation.
 - e. SEM sub-committee on co-curricular matters.
 - f. Budget planning discussions
 - g. Honors/OSEEL collaborations – research month coming to fruition; Entering Mentoring, ForagerOne Rachowicz gift.
 - h. Faculty relations: fellows for FY25 chosen. Grad fellowship launching year two.
Ambassadorship development. Faculty connections with Honors House.
 - i. Undergrad TA partnership with Huskie Academic Commons brewing.

b. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication/Scholarships & Fellowships – Connie

I. McKearns

- a. Applications closed 1/31

II. Scholarships

- a. Goldwater – 1 submitted
- b. Udall-1 in progress
- c. Alumni reviews beginning
- d. Helped 2 students get enrolled for spring
- e. Lincoln Laureate

c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

I. Advising

- a. Welcome - Ryan Downum, Honors Advisor
- b. Grades/Honors Status
- c. Progress Tracking/Status Reporting
- d. Committees
 - i. Task Force for Advising Council
 - ii. Navigate Alerts Response Team
 - iii. Course Registration/Re-Enrollment Team

II. Capstones & In-Course Contracts

- a. Submission Deadline – 1/28/24

III. Honors Fellows

- a. Welcome Back Event
- b. Tabling
 - i. Spring Involvement Fair 1/18/24
 - ii. Global Education Week 1/29/24-2/1/24
- c. Application for 2024/2025 Fellows Due 1/31/24

IV. Peer Academic Coach

- a. Study Tables in Honors House
- b. Studying Strategies and Limiting Procrastination Workshop 2/7/24

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Ashlyn

Events

- a. Honors Welcome Back Event, 1/24. Went very well—65 students attended.
- b. Honors Alternative Spring Break Trip, 3/11-3/15: Land Between the Lakes. Taking 11 Honors students.
- c. Spring Honors Day, 4/21: 5pm in the Duke Ellington Ballroom, HSC

Honors House

- a. We have been approved for the expansion of the Honors House LLC for the 2024/25 academic year! 200 spaces, split between Patterson East and West, mentorship opportunities.
- b. Lunch and Learn events, 2/6: 12-1pm in the Patterson Dining Swing Space
- c. Weekly Community Nights: Games, trivia, etc., Mondays: 6-8pm in the Patterson East basement

- d. Honors Peer Academic Coach Hours, Mondays 5-7pm, Tuesdays 2-5pm, Wednesdays 8:30-10:30am, 2-5pm in the Patterson Community Center Study Lounge
- e. Mardi Gras Event, 2/13: 5-6:30pm

Social Media

- a. Follow us on [Instagram](#)
- b. Like us on [Facebook](#)
- c. Join the Northern Illinois University Honors Program page on LinkedIn

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- a. HON Writing Intensive & Human Diversity Proposals Vote (Fall 2024)
 - i. Writing Intensive: Polansky, Saravanan – Trudy moved, Bart second, motion approved
 - ii. Human Diversity: Saravanan - Bart moved, Ches second, motion approved
- b. Empowering Honors Committee to be program ambassadors. Presentation of program highlights, and FAQs designed to help promote programs to students and faculty.
- c. Discussion: Possible new direction for recognition of faculty excellence.

From Great Professor to Honors Faculty of Distinction. Recognizing faculty excellence more objectively: set threshold criteria, provide regalia, etc. Members assented to seeing a fleshed-out account.

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment