

University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

3/1/2024 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
In-person/ remote option available
403rd Meeting

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

Voting members absent: Sadey Havel (Lead Fellow), Jonah Parra (Student rep)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

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

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

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Trude moved, Ches second, unanimous

- II. Approval of Minutes (February 2024 meeting)
 - a. Bart moved, Melanie second, unanimous

- III. Staff Report
 - a. Director – Andrea
Projects/News:
 - a. Admission/recruitment –Letter writing campaign, chat bot.
 - b. Engagement Roundtable participation.
 - c. SEM sub-committee on co-curricular matters. Suitable is on the mind.
 - d. Budget planning. Homecoming celebration for 55th.
 - e. Research Month – gathering together all the relevant events.
 - f. College outreach: LAS faculty senate presentation; LAS DUGS presentation.
Topic: Honors Program, course spots needed for large population, capstone decline, etc. VPA arts appreciation Honors Engaged achievement under design.
 - g. Faculty Fellowship: offers made, working on HON designations, etc.
 - h. Graduate Fellowship launched, due mid-March.
 - i. Undergrad TA partnership with Huskie Academic Commons agreed to.
Piloting for two courses (still in flux).

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

I. McKearn

- a. Interviews complete

II. Scholarships

- a. Alumni reviews ended 2/29
- b. Udall-3/6 deadline
- c. The Undergraduate Diversity Fellowship Program ([UDFP](#)) 3/17
- d. Lincoln Laureate 3/18
- e. The Ellings-Korduba Research Fellowship Program ([EKFP](#)) 3/31
- f. EYE Grants 4/1
- g. The Japan Studies Research Fellowship ([JSRF](#)) 4/14

c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edey

I. Advising

- a. Grad List
- b. Navigate Campaigns
- c. Committees
 - i. Task Force for Advising Council
 - ii. Navigate Alerts Response Team
 - iii. Course Registration/Re-Enrollment Team

II. Capstones & In-Course Contracts

- a. Capstones – 40
- b. In-Course Contracts - 30

III. Honors Fellows

- a. 2024/2025 Interviews 2/26, 2/28, and 2/29
- b. Selection made by spring break

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Ashlyn

Events

- a. Honors Craft Corner, 3/5: 12-2pm in the Honors Classroom
- b. Huskies United, 3/20-3/21
- c. Spring Honors Day, 4/21: 5pm in the Duke Ellington Ballroom, HSC

Honors House

- a. Lunch and Learn event, 3/4: 12-1pm in the Patterson Dining Swing Space
- b. Weekly Community Nights: Games, trivia, etc., Mondays: 6-8pm in the Patterson East basement
- c. Honors Peer Academic Coach Hours, Tuesdays 2-5pm and Wednesdays 8:30-10:30am with study tables every Mondays from 5-7pm and Wednesday from 2-5pm. Office hours and study tables will be held in the Patterson Community Center study lounge.

Social Media

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

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

- a. Great Professor Award
 - i. Andzik - approved
Ches moved, Bart second, unanimous
- b. Discuss Honors Faculty of Distinction Proposal

Faculty of Distinction is a recognition reserved for faculty who have reached a threshold of involvement, service, and excellence in core contributions to the University Honors Program.

Discussion centered around advantages, criteria, process and rewards for the award.

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment