University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

4/5/2024 @ 1:30p – 3:30p

In-person/ remote option available 404th Meeting

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

Voting members absent: Jeremy Floyd (CVPA), Trude Jacobsen Gidaszewski (CLAS), Sadey Havel (Lead Fellow), Jonah Parra (Student rep), Diana Alvarez (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)

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

1. Approval of Agenda
   1. Bart moved, Larry second, unanimous
2. Approval of Minutes (March 1, 2024, meeting)
   1. Brandon moved, Melanie second, unanimous
3. Staff Report

a. Director – Andrea

Projects/News:

1. Budget planning completed.
2. Admission/recruitment – Letter writing campaign, admitted student event

with students

1. Engagement Roundtable/ Carnegie classification core team.
2. SEM sub-committee on co-curricular matters.
3. Research Month – Kickoff just completed; rest has started. Expansion of

“research” model afoot for FY25.

1. Faculty Fellowship: HON general education classification achieved

g. Graduate Fellowship for FY 25 complete

h. Undergrad TA partnership with Huskie Academic Commons. Piloting for

Community Engagement course.

i. Huskies United: successful campaign

j. Working at improving assessment of completed experiences (including

gathering testimonials more reliably)

k. Conversations with Purpose: Honors and Rising Scholars, opportunity to talk

with Student Affairs

l. STARS academic Mentoring project.

m. Honors and OSEEL giving cases/Foundation

n. Congressional intern management (interns chosen, placed, oriented)

1. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication/Scholarships & Fellowships – Connie
   * 1. McKearns

a. Elizabeth Nowak

b. Ava Krall

c. Emma Bell

d. Zoey Proper

e. Megan Gray

* + 1. Scholarships

a. The Japan Studies Research Fellowship ([JSRF](http://www.nbr.org/jsrf)) 4/14

b. Lincoln Laureate

c. EYE Grants

1. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

I. Advising

a. Priority Registration – 4/1/24

b. Admitted Student Days – 4/6/24 & 4/20/24

c. Transfer Orientation – 4/10/24, 4/17/24 (virtual), 4/19/24, & 4/23/24

II. Capstones & In-Course Contracts

a. Capstones

i. Nominations for Outstanding Capstones due – 4/10/24

ii. Nominations for Outstanding Faculty Mentor due – 4/8/24

b. Virtual Capstone Panel Discussion 4/17/24, 3:00 p.m.

c. In-Course Contracts – Requests for completion will go out week 14

III. Honors Fellows

a. 2024/2025 - 14 selected - 2 will work with Ashlyn on Honors House

Programming and Suitable

b. Training for all 2024/2025 Fellows - 5/3/24

1. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Ashlyn

Events

a. Honors Day at Barsema’s Closet, 4/10

b. Spring Honors Day, 4/21: 5pm in the Duke Ellington Ballroom,

HSC

c. Honors Night at the Spring Dance Concert, 4/25: 6:15pm in Stevens

Building Room 235. Collaboration event with CVPA.

d. Honors Bash, 5/3: 11am-1pm in the Peters Campus Life Building

Honors House

a. Weekly Community Nights: Games, trivia, etc., Mondays: 6-8pm in the

Patterson East basement

b. Honors House Backyard Party, 4/29: 6-8pm at the Patterson Hall backyard

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](https://www.instagram.com/niuhonors/)

b. Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NIUUniversityHonors)

c. Join the Northern Illinois University Honors Program page on

LinkedIn

d. Suitable Wednesday campaign

IV. Old Business

a. Honors Faculty of Distinction (update)

***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.***

***Motion was made to endorse, Brandon moved, Melissa second, unanimous***

V. New Business

a. Choosing Lincoln Laureate

***The*** [***Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award***](https://thelincolnacademyofillinois.org/students/) ***is a prestigious honor that***

***recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of NIU's top graduating students. Each***

***year, this award is given to an outstanding senior from each of the four-year***

***degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois***.

***Discussion centered around the nominees.***

***Motion was made by Melanie to nominate Emma Witlock for the Lincoln Laureate***

***Award, Bart second, unanimous.***

***Motion was made by Damien to nominate Viktor as the runner-up for the Lincoln***

***Laureate award, DeeAnna second, unanimous.***

***Committee members were unanimous on cancelling the next committee meeting***

***scheduled for May 3***.

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment