

University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

10/6/2023 @ 1:30p – 3:30p
In-person/ remote option available
399th Meeting

Voting Members Present: DeeAnna Phares (ULIB), Damien Fernandez (HIST), Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Melanie Koss (EDU), Larry Lurio (LAS), James Burton (BUS), Sadey Havel (Lead Fellow), Diana Alvarez (Student rep), Brandon Olsen (Student rep), Jonah Parra (Student rep), Molly Schmidt (Student rep)

Voting members absent: Melissa Walter (CHHS), Ches Thurber (CLAS), Jeremy Floyd (CVPA), Trude Jacobsen Gidaszewski (CLAS), Barton Sharp (BUS)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors), Alicia Schatteman (Vice Provost)

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

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

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Unanimous

- II. Approval of Minutes (September 2023 meeting)
 - a. Brandon moved, Melanie second, unanimous

- III. Staff Reports
 - a. Director – Andrea
 - Projects/News:
 - a. Personnel: advisor search; training new staff.
 - b. Preparing for NCHC (three presentations, one with honors staff)
 - c. Expanding relationships with departments (KNPE, PSYC). KNPE joint departmental and university-wide initiative.
 - d. Value of Honors paper accepted for publication in JNCHC.
 - e. Suitable development – seeking campus expansions/ integrations.
Managing experiences (grad, etc.)
 - f. Admission/recruitment – new marketing cycle and applications in Slate. Admission event in Springfield (forthcoming October)
 - g. Goldwater development. Recruitment reaped applicants; now working with associate director on application support. Goldwater consultant onboard.
 - h. Rising Scholars & McKearn – RS conference and debrief. 100+ students attended. McKearn -two workshops presented.

- i. Engagement Roundtable participation.
- j. Tuition waiver application for next year completed.
- k. Preparing and marketing RFP for Honors Faculty Fellowship.
- l. Mentoring Honors Graduate Teaching Fellow.

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

I. McKearns

- a. Team Building event (today!)
- b. Cooking Class 11/3

II. Scholarships

- a. Goldwater
- b. EYE Grants
- c. Rising Scholars

III. Ambassadors

- a. Homecoming
- b. Crowd Fund

c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edey
Advising- Summer 2023

I. Advising

- a. Continuing Student Recruitment 9/27 & 10/3
- b. Course Book –
 - i. Online mid-October
 - ii. Courses tagged as Honors in MyNIU
- c. Preview Day – October 9, 2023

II. Peer Academic Coach – Sergio Dondiego

- a. 10 Hours/week
- b. Student Support

III. Capstones/In-Course Contracts (ICC)

- a. 20 Capstones
- b. 17 In-Course Contracts

IV. Honors Fellows

- a. Mentee Event – October 25, 2023
- b. All Honors Event – October 31, 2023

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communications – Ashlyn

I. Events

- a. Jonamac Recap
- b. Syco Escape Rooms Recap
- c. Alumni Wellness Event: 10/13, 11:30am, Honors Classroom
- d. Homecoming Tent at Mission's Grove: 10/14
- e. Therapy Dogs: 10/17, 6-7pm, Patterson CC
- f. Six Flags Fright Fest Trip: 10/21

- g. Honors House Halloween Cluster Decorating Contest: 10/1 - 10/20
- h. Honors Mentor Groups Halloween Painting Event: 10/23, 5-8pm
- i. Honors Halloween Bash: 10/31

II. Connect

- a. Suitable
- b. Send me events to advertise

III. Crowdfunding

- a. Computer Lab Upgrades
- b. Launches on October 10th
- c. Closes on November 2nd

IV. Instagram

- a. Send me pictures!
- b. Student Survey

V. Old Business

- a. None

VI. New Business

- a. Bias in STEM Honors Seminar (Human Diversity application)
(Brandon moved, Melanie second, motion carried)
- b. Honors Seminar Themes FY 25 (results)
- c. Honors Seminar Review Sub-Committee (assemble)

VII. Comments from Floor

VIII. Adjournment

- (a) Jonah Parra moved to adjourn the meeting, Brandon Olsen seconded, motion carried