

# University Honors Program Honors Committee Minutes

12/1/2023 @ 1:30p – 3:30p  
In-person/ remote option available  
401<sup>st</sup> 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), Jeremy Floyd (CVPA), Larry Lurio (LAS), Sadey Havel (Lead Fellow), Brandon Olsen (Student rep), Jonah Parra (Student rep), Molly Schmidt (Student rep),

Voting members absent: Melanie Koss (EDU), Diana Alvarez (Student rep)

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

Others Present: Edye Cowan (Honors), Ashlyn Straka (Honors), April Buckley (Honors)

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

- I. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Unanimous
  
- II. Approval of Minutes (November 2023 meeting)
  - a. Larry moved, DeeAnna second, unanimous.
  
- III. Staff Report
  - a. Director – Andrea  
Projects/News:
    - a. Personnel: advisor search interviews, round two, ongoing.
    - b. Completed/attended NCHC (three presentations, one with honors staff)
    - c. JNCHC lead author article coming out (December 2023)
    - d. Collaborations: KNPE, Braven
    - e. Suitable development – seeking campus expansions/ integrations. Managing experiences (grad, etc.)
    - f. Admission/recruitment –incoming applications, four seminar webinars.
    - g. National fellowships: Goldwater, Gilman, Boren started; exploring environmental ideas (e.g., Udall) with relevant parties.
    - h. Engagement Roundtable participation.
    - i. SEM sub-committee on co-curricular matters.
    - j. Congressional Internship, Honors Faculty Fellowships, processes ongoing (interns selected).
    - k. Tuition waiver results: no deduction
    - l. Budget planning discussions
    - m. Honors/OSEEL collaborations – research month, Rising Scholars.

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

I. McKearn

- a. Recruitment for next year has begun

II. Scholarships

- a. Goldwater – 2 in process
- b. EYE Grants - 10

III. Rising Scholar Upcoming Events

- a. STEM Research Equity 11/30
- b. Research to Resume 1/25

c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edey

I. Advising

- a. Spring 2024 Orientation - 11/29, 12/8, 12/13
- b. Task Force for Advising Council
- c. Navigate Alerts Response Team
- d. Course Registration/Re-Enrollment Team

II. Capstones

- a. Honors Poster Presentation Event – 12/7/23 4-5:00 p.m., PCL Atrium
- b. Final Capstone Projects due 12/10/23
  - i. Submit - [honors@niu.edu](mailto:honors@niu.edu)
  - ii. Upload to Huskie Commons

III. Honors Fellows

- a. Holiday Party
  - i. 12/5/23 6-9:00 p.m. PCL 110
  - ii. Holiday cards for Lincolnshire Memory Care & Aperion Care
- b. Application for 2024/2025 Fellows Due 1/31/24
- c. Information Session TBD

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Ashlyn

Events

- a. Honors Holiday Party—making cards to give to Lincolnshire Memory Care and Aperion Care, 12/5: 6-9pm
- b. Honors Day, 12/7: 4-6:30pm
- c. Honors Bash, 12/8 11am-1pm

Honors House

- a. Working on expanding the community—more spaces
- b. More educational programming for Honors House students

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. EYE grant discussion
- b. Presidential scholarship interviewers (volunteers)
- c. KNPE/Honors discussion

*KNPE Departmental Honors Program collaboration with the University Honors Program*

*A KNPE Departmental Honors Program was discussed. There's quite a lot of KNPE students already in the Honors Program. If students meet our requirements, departmental requirements and take KNPE and engaged courses in addition to Capstones they will be eligible for KNPE degree with Honors. The committee thinks this is a great idea and there were no objections. Since there will be no changes to the Honors Program the committee felt that voting was not needed.*

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment

- a. Nick Pohlman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jeremy first, Brandon seconded, motion carried