**University Honors Program**

**Honors Committee Minutes**

2/7/2025 @ 1:30p – 3:30p

Remote

409th Meeting

**Voting Members Present:** Melanie Koss (EDU), Bill Martin (LAS), Ches Thurber (CLAS), DeeAnna Phares (ULIB), Furkan Gur (BUS), Jui-Ching Wang (CVPA), Natalie Joy (CLAS), Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Alyssa Fulton (student), Melanie Lytell (student)

**Voting Members Absent:** Kunal Patel (CHHS), Melissa Clucas Walter (CHHS), Liz Atkinson (student), Sadey Havel (student), Tuba Azhar (student)

**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 1:31 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda
   1. Unanimous
2. Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2024, meeting
   1. Unanimous
3. Staff Reports

a. Director – Andrea

I. Projects/News:

a. Honors first-year seminar development

b. Graduating student portfolio developed

c. Honors Faculty Fellowships – scheduling, budgeting, etc.

d. Presidential Scholar recruitment (event, etc.)

e. Honors student database, in development with Institutional Effectiveness

f. Reviewing participation in university recruitment: dedicated Honors visit time;

leveraging Admitted Student Days in the manner of Orientation in the past;

partnership with EMMC for postcards

g. Budget planning

b. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication/Scholarships &

Fellowships – Connie

1. Fellowships

a. Goldwater-1/31 (STEM research)-2 submitted

b. Udall-5 campus applications, 4 can submit and in process 3/5

c. Summer Fulbright Institutes 2/3-1

d.  REU (Jan, Feb, Mar)

e. Gilman-3/6

II. Lincoln Laureate [Nominations](https://niu.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1961300)

1. Faculty Nominations due March 7
2. Student portion due March 24

  III. [EYE Grants](https://niuits.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/HonorsCommittee/Shared%20Documents/General/FY25%20Honors%20Committee%20Meetings/4%20-%20December%206th%20Meeting/EYE%20Grants?csf=1&web=1&e=Dzp3lv) (March 15)  
 a. [Research](https://niu.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1951488)

b. [Study Abroad](https://niu.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1951489)

IV. McKearns

1. 27 applications
2. 10 interviews
3. 5 will be selected

c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

1. Advising

a. Grades/Honors Status

b. Progress Tracking/Status Reporting

1. Capstones/In-Course Contracts

a. Proposals due 1/26/25

b. Submit capstones in OnBase upload proposal in Suitable

c. Capstones - Approximately 46 as of 2/3/25

d. ICCs – Approximately 35 as of 1/27/25

1. Honors Fellows

a. Tabling

b. Remote and in person shifts

c. Application for 2025/2026 Fellows Due 1/31/25

IV. Honors Peer Academic Coach

a. Abby Cano

b. Hours Monday 3-5 Patterson Lounge, Tuesday 3-5 Honors Classroom,

Thursday 3-5 Patterson Lounge

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication - Ashlyn

I. Events

* Spring Honors Engagement Panel, 1/21
* Honors Welcome Back Event, 1/22, Huskie Den
* Honors Engaged Drop-In Hours, 1/22, 1/23, 1/24
* Appreciation of the Arts: Holler River, 2/20

II. Honors House

* Honors House Community Night: Popping Into a New Semester, 1/14
* Honors House Community Night: Bingo Night, 1/21
* Honors House Community Night: Slime Making, 1/28
* Honors House Faculty Dinner: featuring Dr. Bill Martin, 2/3
* Honors House Community Night: Board Games & Brownies, 2/4
* Honors House Community Night: Cookies & Cards, 2/11
* Honors House Community Night: Karaoke Night, 2/18
* Honors House Community Night: Peer Academic Coach “Muffin to Worry About and Journal Decorating”, 2/25

III. Honors Engaged

* Appreciation of the Arts Spring 2025
* Connect 10
* Forage Job Simulation
* Honors Job Shadow Spring 2025
* Preparing for Graduate School Spring 2025
* Social Media Assessment Spring 2025
* Spring 2025 Academic Writing Workshop Series
* NIU Advocacy Day Spring 2025
* De La Vega Pitch Competition
* Career Plan & Exploration

IV. Social Media

* Follow us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/niuhonors/)
* Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NIUUniversityHonors)
* Join the Northern Illinois University Honors Program page on LinkedIn

IV. Old Business

1. None

V. New Business

a. Discuss HON writing intensive applications:

* + - Melissa Adams-Campbell, English
    - Anitha Saravanan, Nursing

***Discussions on both applications and approval unanimous.***

b. First-Year Honors Seminar

* + - Discuss premise and proposal

***Discussions on the First-Year Honors Seminar and approval unanimous.***

VI. Comments from Floor

* 1. None

VII. Adjournment

1. Unanimous