**University Honors Program**

**Honors Committee Minutes**

3/7/2025 @ 1:30p – 3:30p

Remote

410th Meeting

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

**Voting Members Absent:** Liz Atkinson (student), Sadey Havel (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 1:30 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda
   1. Nick Pohlman moved, Melissa Clucas Walter second, motion passed
2. Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2025, meeting

a. Furkan Gur moved, Kunal Patel second, motion passed

1. Staff Reports

a. Director – Andrea

I. Projects/News:

a. New curriculum prep (first-year seminar)

b. Budget development

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

d. Presidential Scholar interviews & recruitment, admissions projects

e. HCIR spring meeting; Radasanu incoming president (building relationships with

2-year institutions in the state)

f. Preparing NCHC proposals (community engagement models in Honors

programs; main stage presentation on Justice Challenge USDA grant and cross-

institutional collaboration)

g. Enhancement portfolio (Rising Scholars, Career Readiness Week,

Undergraduate Research badge development)

h. Waubonsee/Gustafson “badge” development

i. Justice Challenge – recruitment, course build out.

b. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication/Scholarships &

Fellowships – Connie

1. Fellowships

a. Udall-4 submitted

b. REU –3+ submitted

c. Gilman-3/6 (will get updates soon)

d.  Goldwater recruitment-Freshman STEM researchers

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

1. Faculty Nominations due today!
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)

c. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

1. Advising

a. Updated presentations for Preview and Admitted Student Days

b. Community College Articulation Conference 2/21/24

c. Navigate Campaigns

d. Upcoming events

i. Transfer Day 3/7/25

ii. Preview Day 3/8/35

iii. Admitted Student Days 3/22/25, 4/5/25, 4/26/25

1. Capstones & In-Course Contracts

a. Capstones - 49

b. In-Course Contracts - 36

1. Honors Fellows

a. 2025/2026 Fellow Interviews 2/26, 2/27, 3/4, 3/5, and 3/6

b. Selection made following spring break

c. Guest Speaker 3/21/25 – Stress Management

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication - Ashlyn

I. Events

* Panel presenter for the Suitable Honors College Mini Conference on 2/12
* Huskies United, April 2-3. [Be an ambassador for Honors](https://dog.niu.edu/giving-day/97544/signup)!

[Honors Program](https://dog.niu.edu/giving-day/97544/department/97550)

[Undergraduate Research](https://dog.niu.edu/giving-day/97544/department/97611)

[Career Services](https://dog.niu.edu/giving-day/97544/department/103165)

* Spring Honors Day, April 13: 5pm, Duke Ellington Ballroom

II. Honors House

* Honors House Faculty Dinner: featuring Federico Bassetti, 3/3
* Honors House Community Night: Bloom with Honors, 3/4
* Honors House Community Night: Slice and Dice, 3/18
* Honors House Community Night: Feeling Lucky Bingo, 3/25
* Housing Sign Up for next academic year. Patterson West will remain freshman Honors students, Patterson East will be returning Honors students

III. Honors Engaged

* Appreciation of the Arts Spring 2025
* Bridge to Your Future
* 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
* CURE Engagement Activity

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. Faculty of Distinction applications:

* + - Wiemer, Psychology
    - Jacobsen, History

***Kunal Patel made a motion to approve Wiemer application, DeeAnna Phares second Unanimous***

***Melanie Koss made a motion to approve Jacobsen application, Melanie Clucas Walter second***

***Unanimous***

VI. Comments from Floor

* 1. None

VII. Adjournment

1. Adjourned at 2:03pm, Unanimous