**University Honors Program**

**Honors Committee Minutes**

10/4/202\4 @ 1:30p – 3:30p

In-person/ remote option available

406th Meeting

Voting Members Present: Melanie Koss (EDU), Ches Turber (CLAS), Furkan Gur (BUS), Natalie Joy (CLAS), Bill Martin (LAS), DeeAnna Phares (ULIB), Nicholas Pohlman (EET), Kunal Patel, Sadey Havel (student), Tuba Azhar (student), Melanie Lytell (student)

Voting members absent: Melissa Clucas Walter (CHHS), Jui-Chang Wang (CVPA), Alyssa Fulton (student), Liz Atkinson (student),

Ex-Officio Present: Andrea Radasanu (Honors)

Others Present: Edye Cowan (Honors), Connie Storey (Honors), Ryan Downum (Honors), April Buckley (Honors)

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

1. Approval of Agenda
   1. Unanimous
2. Approval of Minutes (September 2024 meeting)
   1. Unanimous
3. Staff Reports

a. Director – Andrea

I. Projects/News:

a. 55th anniversary celebration planning (Homecoming)

b. Continued work on Carnegie community engagement application

c. Honors seminar: public service academy (researching options for honors

intro seminar)

d. Assessment plan submitted

e. Suitable development with Career Services (investigating possible

enhancements to Honors’ functionality as well – activity sharing)

f. Forager One push out

g. Job Shadow program development

h. AI teaching/and learning (co-chairing)

i. Collection of mini-section syllabi

j. HCIR -hosted fall meeting (president elect for FY 26)

b. Associate Director of Academic Strategic Planning – Edye

I. Advising

a. Taft 2.0 – 9/6/24

b. Student Progress

i. Updated student status

1. Inactive

2. GPA

ii. Graduation audit

iii. First-year, Sophomore, & Junior progress report

c. Continuing student recruitment 9/24 & 9/25

d. Course Book posted mid-October – Priority Registration 11/4/24

e. Looking for a Retreat site for August 2025

II. Capstones & In-Course Contracts

a. 15 Capstone submissions

b. 34 In-Course Contract submissions

III. Honors Fellows

a. Remote & in person shifts – three/four weeks

b. Tabling – Involvement Fair, Study Abroad Fair, Asian American

Resource Center Welcome event

c. Upcoming events

i. Homecoming door decorating

ii. Service projects

c. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication/Scholarships &

Fellowships – Connie

I. Fellowships

a. Goldwater-1/31 (STEM research)

b. Gilman-Study Abroad 10/10

c. NSF-Grad School (Research) 10/15

II. Rising Scholars Kick Off Event 9/26

a. Follow up survey

b. Upcoming events

III. EYE Grants    
 a. Study Abroad

b. Research

c. Feedback 10/15

d. Deadline 11/1

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Ashlyn Straka (Andrea)

I. Events

* Honors Midterms Event: Donut Stress About Midterms, 10/8: 9am-12pm, Honors Office
* Mary Stuart for Honors, 10/10: 6:15pm, Stevens Building

1. Homecoming

* Celebrating 55 Years of Honors!
* Tent in Mission’s Grove celebrating Honors, 10/19: 11am-2pm
* Lots of Honors Pride through easels with various infographics/program highlights
  + Alumni and student Suitable games
* Giveaways—t-shirts for the first 50 people to complete the Suitable game
  + Football ticket giveaways
  + Treats
* Honors Apparel Store. Order today! Crewnecks, sweatshirts, t-shirts, long sleeve shirts. An exclusive Honors design to celebrate 55 years of Honors. The store closes on October 31st, so don’t wait! [Check out the store here.](https://niu-honors-program.checkoutstores.com/campaigns/niu-honors-program)
* Honors Program Pride Crowdfunding campaign goes live on October 9th at 6am. Help us spread the word! [Read through our crowdfunding page here.](https://crowdfund.niu.edu/project/43902)

1. Honors House

* Honors House Community Night: Just Dance and Karaoke Night, 10/1: 7-9pm, Patterson Community Center
* Honors House Faculty Dinner featuring Anna Henderson, Graduate Teaching Fellow, 10/7: 6:15-7:15pm, Patterson Community Center
* Honors House Community Night: Craft and Cram, 10/8: 7-9pm, Patterson Community Center
* Honors House Community Night: BaGoals, 10/15: 7-9pm, Patterson Community Center
* Honors House Community Night: Positivity Jars and Pretzel, 10/22: 7-9pm, Patterson Community Center
* Honors House Community Night: Spooky Cookie Decorating and Spooky Games, 10/29: 7-9pm, Patterson Community Center

1. 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

V. New Business

a. HON application for human diversity (Henderson) – History of Enslavement in the

US and its Modern Implications

b. Honors Seminar Theme for FY25 (results)

c. 55th anniversary (Homecoming, apparel store)

d. Search for Taft replacement

***The committee approved the HON application for human diversity (Henderson)***

***Natalie Joy moved, DeeAnna Phares second, unanimous*.**

***The winning theme for Honors Seminar was announced – Back to the Future.***

***Some committee members gave suggestions for facilities to replace Taft and were encouraged to submit any other suggestions to Edye.***

VI. Comments from Floor

VII. Adjournment