University Honors Program  
Honors Committee – Agenda  

9/2/2016 @ 1:30p – 3:30p  
Campus Life Building 110  
346th Meeting  
September 2, 2016  
Approved  

Voting Members Present: Bart Sharp (BUS), Richard Siegesmund (VPA), Sarah McHone-Chase (LIB), Scott Balcerzak (LAS), John Evar Strid (EDU), Mary Elaine Koren (HHS), Nick Pohlman (EET), Emily McKee (LAS), Angelica Rosinski (Student), Clarissa Hinshaw (Student), I Younan An (Student), Rachel Shapland (Student), Justyna Jaworski (Student)  

Voting Members Absent: David Hedin (LAS)  

Ex-officio present: Todd Gilson (Honors)  

Ex-officio absent: Ed Klonoski  

Others: Honors Staff Jason Goode and Marcy Brown (Recording Clerk)  

I. Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members  
   a. Honors Staff  
   b. Faculty  
   c. Student  

II. Election of the Committee’s Faculty Chair  
   McHone-Chase/Evar Strid moved to nominate Bart Sharp as Chair. Motioned passed  

III. Approval of Agenda  
   Balcerzak/McKee moved to approve agenda. Motion passed.  

IV. Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2016  
   a. Already approved (approved electronically May 2016)  

V. Staff Reports  
   a. Director – Todd  
      Enrollment numbers  
      See numbers presented at meeting (collected on the 1st of every month)  
      Projected course offerings – spring 2017 (see attached Excel document)  
      My Top 6 priorities going forward (in no particular order):  
         Enhance support for student research  
         Examine internal structure of Honors (staff responsibilities / website)
Revise Honors Engaged program
Link capstone projects to student career objectives
Enhance assessment procedures of Honors curriculum and events
Increase donations to fund initiatives (courses, scholarships, study abroad, etc.)

Status of Honors Faculty Status / Political Winds?
Last mentioned in November 2015 meeting minutes

b. Assistant Director – Jes
Met with new and continuing students in the program.
Participated in training for new NIU Orientation Leaders.
Worked orientation all summer and covered University Honors table daily along with daily presentations to parents.
Helped plan and participate in Honors Taft Retreat for new students.
Lead training of new and continuing Honors Fellows and Taft retreat leaders.
Met multiple times individually with Honors Fellows staff to make certain that the information that they are providing students is helpful and consistent with program policies and procedures (ongoing advisor training).
Continued presenting series of informational workshops on the revised In-Course Honors Contract process and the Capstone Proposal, as well as EYE Grant opportunities (prior to the semester deadline). Sessions are running once or twice a week for each type all semester long.
Met with and taught unit to visiting cohort of students from China.
Continued work with NIU colleagues on Honors assessment work.
Represented University Honors with parent presentations at NIU Summer Open House.
Met with Ted Campbell from Admissions Office to discuss collaboration priorities.
Participated in the processing and finalization of Honors Capstones for spring and summer graduates.
Represented University Honors at Advising Deans group meetings.
Met with NIU Orientation staff to debrief and exchange feedback regarding summer orientation 2016.

c. Assistant to the Associate Vice Provost for University Honors – Jason
College Scholarship Board
Implementation of Academic Works Scholarship Fair - Wednesday, November 2, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Citizens Police Academy
We met every Wednesday during the spring 2016 semester as a pilot cohort and I graduated!
Community Conversations
Meeting w/ President Baker and other NIU and DeKalb county constituents to determine ways to build and strengthen the communiversity
McKearn Program
One-on-one meetings with the McKearn Fellows; Monthly Fellows meetings; Added new McKearn Fellows to Bb; Updated the website to include the new McKearn Fellows profiles; Answered emails that came to the mckearn@niu.edu address; Updated the program manual; Attended the final semester wrap-up meeting; Weekly team meetings with Destiny M. and Brittany W.; and attended the Presidents BBQ for McKearn and SROP

National Scholarships and Fellowships
Rhodes, Gates, Marshall – working with one candidate who is interested in applying for these opportunities
Met with Anna Quidar to strategize ways to innovate the national scholarship process

Honors Website
Updated the summer/fall 2016 course book and working on the relaunch

Honors Scholars
Met with Len L. to talk about creating a new video of the 2015 Honors Scholars
Posted summer blogs and updated the website to show the new scholars (Megan Haduch and Rebekah Ernat)

Honors Scholarship
Awarded scholarships for Fall 2016 and submitted payment requests
Met with incoming transfer students and current students and taught them skills to find scholarships through NIU
Eligible, but not enrolled
Helped a student get a hold lifted by supplying a $400.00 waiver and the student registered for classes
Unused tuition waiver dollars were used to help five students with outstanding balances and four of the five returned this fall.

Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards application evaluator for the Greek awards
Mortar Board co-advisor
Share monthly bank statements with treasurer

Future Educator Scholarship Program/Golden Apple
Read and ranked applicants for potential scholarships from the COE
20 applicants applied, 18 awarded a total of $34,300

Education Advisory Board (EAB) SSC Workflow Committee
Weekly meetings to help determine the direction of the advising tool

Open Sessions for NIU Black Alumni for the Director of the Center for Black Studies
Attended forums, engaged the candidates, and completed online assessment of the applicants

Honors UNIV 101

d. Assistant Director of Programming and Communication – Steve
Event programming & Communications
Transition to external programming
A new template on our webpage allows students to submit events they believe are consistent with Honors Engaged criteria. Thus far into the semester, we have received 4 events.
Welcome Back BBQ
Attendance: 132 people
Peer Mentor Program
This year the peer mentor program has altered from being a mandatory program to an optional program. In previous years, we have had low involvement from some of our mentors (who were mandated through scholarship offers) and especially low participation from our mentees. We are hoping to increase the reputation and morale of the program by involving those who want to mentor and want to be a mentee.
This year’s Peer Mentor Program student liaisons are: Joseph Howard and Emily Packer.
Honors House
Honors House Hangout
Director, Dr. Gilson will be meeting with each floor of the Honors House to meet those students and bring them some familiarity within the program. These meeting are set for consecutive Wednesdays starting August 31-September 21
Jonamac Haunted Corn Maze
First semester trip will take place on October 7 at 6PM. I am working on collaborating this trip with the Environmental House.

VI. Additional Reports and Updates
None

VII. Old Business
a. Online course offerings for Honors
   i. UHHS 399 – Honors Seminar
      Never been done.
      Rosinski agrees with online courses
      Gilson stated that learning might be obstructed
      Evar Strid was concerned that course would be hard to update online
      Sharp “Honors is to be more involved/engaged”
      Balcerzak stated that ICCs have a standard criteria, how do we make an online course “Honors Worthy?”
      Siegesmund stated that they do online courses for the Master program in VPA. Pedagogy is live stream video. Everyone online at the same time. If you can’t have discussion, you can’t have online program.
      McKee asked what type of course would online work for? ANTH course would suffer and not be effective.
      Balcerzak asked what would make it Honors?
      Rosinski stated that a “Blended” course would be good.
      Evar Strid stated that flexibility would be needed
      Hinshaw stated that it depends on course. Motivation is hard for an online
course. Seminars are supposed to be more discussion based. When the fact that seminars are supposed to be outside of a students major, Koren brought up the fact they have many different majors in the college of HHS. Goode stated that he had taken an online course before, it was nice. You watch a lecture and then meet online at a certain time to discuss ii. ETRA – mini-section / possible Honors only course Gilson stated that ETRA is online experienced Balcerzak stated we could dip our toe in the water with a mini-section no one is defining what online course looks like? What is content? Facetime with professor if needed? Enrollment numbers to make seminar? Sharp feels that he is comfortable in allowing the departments to explore Evar Strid would like close assessments of courses McKee suggested that we reach out to Honors students who have already taken an online course. Gilson would like to see content and maybe offer a mini-section in the spring.

VIII. New Business

a. Strategic Planning (yes, I know this was on your agenda last year... let's do it once, for a three year period, and right!) Staff could bring ideas to committee Gilson stated that we should start a committee Sharp stated that a smaller subcommittee is appropriate to think about long term Koren agreed with Sharp that a smaller subcommittee is the way to go Sharp stated that the committee already consists of himself, Mary Elaine Koren and Sarah McHone-Chase. Students interested in committee are: Rachel Shapland I Younan An

McKee would like to see the meetings used more as a liaison Sharp/McHone Chase would like to revisit the faculty handbook

IX. Adjournment
Pohlman/McHone-Chase moved to adjourn. Motion passed