Honors Council

Minutes

December 12, 2017

Approved – February 2, 2018

**Present:** Bill Anderson, Julie Campbell, Jin Jo, Stella Liao, Miranda Bejda, Arek Jorgensen, Jennifer Wrzala, Rocío Rivadeneyra

1. The meeting convened at 3:06 p.m.
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approval of meeting minutes** A motion to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2016 meeting was made by Campbell; Seconded by Jo. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
4. **Function of Council & Review of Charge**  Rivadeneyra stated the Honors Council is made up of 13 members – 6 faculty, 6 Honors students, and 1 non-voting member. She asked the Council to review the charge.

Campbell questioned the meaning of function #2 “To assist in the evaluation of the Honors Program.” Does this mean each student’s Honors Contract would need to be evaluated? Anderson interpreted it to mean the Honors Council would be assessing the Honors Program.

Campbell then asked how students know about the Honors Program. Rivadeneyra stated the Honors Program does a lot of recruitment and has a Recruitment Coordinator. The program works with Admissions to recruit Freshmen and Transfer students and recruits via email, brochures, events, and presentations. The application went up in October and the deadline is April 1st. The Transfer student application starts February 1st and students can apply through July 1st. The Current student application opens February 1st.

Liao asked if Honors students had to reapply each year to remain in the Honors Program. Rivadeneyra replied that once a student is in the Honors Program, as long as they stay in good standing, they remain in the Program. Good standing equals a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher and completion of one Honors Learning Experience (HLE) each semester. Rivadeneyra then shared a Powerpoint slide of the Honors Learning Framework, including the 6 Dimensions of Honors Learning and the six HLEs: Honors Seminars, Honors Sections, Honors Contracts, Honors Research, Honors Explorations, and Honors Travel. Liao asked if a student can do the same Honors learning experience each semester. Rivadeneyra responded that technically, yes, but the Honors Program encourages variety.

Anderson mentioned he liked that the charge was broad. No one had any proposed changes to for the Honors Council charge.

1. **Election of Chair** Campbell made a motion to appoint Miranda Bejda as Chair of the Honors Council. A second was given by Jorgensen. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.
2. **New Honors Staff** Rivadeneyra has been named Director of the Honors Program; Gina Turton is the Academic Coordinator; Amy Secretan is Program/Recruitment Coordinator.

Previous Honors Council members Ben Stiers and Emma Hartness were on the search committee to fill the position of Program Coordinator, which Amy Secretan was hired for. The Honors Program thanks them for their service.

1. **Student Experiences** Rivadeneyra shared the following:

**Honors Student Scholarly Travel Funds:** There are limited funds available for Honors students to travel to present or for other scholarly work. Travel must occur between July 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018. Students can apply before they travel or afterward for reimbursement. No one has yet applied.

**Honors Program Scholarships:** FTIC – most students were offered scholarships; Transfer – all students received funds; Current – application currently open; deadline is February 1st. Offering $500 - $1000.

**Honors Council of Illinois Region Spring Symposium:** This is a chance for Honors students from all over the state to present. It’s being held at Eastern Illinois University. Student deadline to apply to present is February 1st, through the Honors Program website.

**Alternative Spring Break:** Going to New Orleans this year. Will be working with students in the school system.

**Honors Travel in Panama:** Spring Break trip; Originally going to Cuba, but a travel warning was issued, so changed to Panama. Ended up being cheaper for students.

1. **National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Report** Rivadeneyra reported she attended the NCHC Conference this year. She reported that it was good to see what other programs are doing and to realize what a great program we already have. The theme was “Just Honors”, which focused on issues related to equity and justice, which is one of Rivadeneyra’s goals for the Honors Program. It was great to network with other Directors and Deans. Rivadeneyra also experienced the City-as-Text model, which is what we use for international travel.
2. **Goals for this year**

**Infuse new dimension across curriculum/experiences:** In April, the Honors Program staff had a retreat/meeting to assess the Program. It is from this meeting that the new dimension, Intercultural Competence, came from.

**Improve communication:** Rivadeneyra has tasked herself with improving communication with faculty, regarding the Honors Program.

**Assessment of program:** Rivadeneyra will see if someone from Assessment is available to speak to the Honors Council. Anderson replied that maybe the Council should know what Rivadeneyra wants the Council to accomplish first.

1. A motion to adjourn was made by Bejda; seconded by Jorgensen. All in favor; none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.