HONORS COUNCIL OF THE ILLINOIS REGION

2020 FALL DIRECTORS’ MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Host: Joliet Junior College via Zoom

MEETING AGENDA

Attending: Alicia Tomasian (Harper), John Garcia (Harper), David Rhea (GSU), Jon Hageman (Northeastern IL U), Aaron James (ICC), Jessica Peek (USF), Sarah Diel-Hunt (Heartland), Tom McCully (Heartland), Lisa Higgins (COD), Rocio Rivadeneyra (ISU), Mary Kay Mulvaney (Elmhurt), Julia Weister (St. Xavier), Al Golden (Joliet), Jennifer Kimbarovsky (Joliet), Amanda Beaudry (Joliet), Andrea Radasanu (NIU), Ralph Keen (UIC), Alicea Toso (Moraine Valley), Steve Rowe (Chicago State). Jyotsna Kapur (SIU), Marne Bailey (Lewis), Benli Shechter (Richard Daley), Richard England (EIU)

I Welcome and Introductions – 9:00am

1. David Rhea called meeting to order at 9:00am
2. Introductions including an answer to “What’s changed in your program because of COVID?”
   1. Some themes that came across the introductions:
      1. Enrollment is up in most Honors programs.
      2. Struggles with building community
      3. Hard time to introduce new initiatives
      4. Opportunities for new types of programming
         1. films and then discussion
         2. archive projects with Library of Congress
      5. Cancelled trips
      6. Changes in service learning

II. Honors in an age of COVID – 9:50 am

1. Study Abroad
   1. Al discussed JJC’s trip to Costa Rica during spring break of 2020.
2. Maintaining Continuity and Rigor
   1. Lisa mentioned the discussions are key to making it Honors related. Student driven.
   2. Aaron asked if we were keeping standardized test scores requirements for admission. A few of us mentioned that they we are not requiring SAT/ACT scores for admissions either temporarily or long term. GSU is using predictive analytics to their admissions model. NEIU takes test scores OR top 10% of HS graduating class. ISU is using this as an opportunity to test what the admissions process would look like if we made tests optional long-term. COD, UIC, and USF are test optional.
   3. Opportunities for new types of teaching/learning. You don’t just move your face to face course online. Take advantage of new tools and opportunities. Doing 1:1 meetings with students.
   4. Funding for faculty to take courses in online course design
   5. Make sure you look at accessible options
      1. They issue may be live sessions. Lisa suggests recording and giving students the option to watch recording and write a paper to make up for not going to live session
      2. Proofreading captions is important.
   6. Book recommended by Lisa Higgins: <https://www.amazon.com/Teaching-Effectively-Zoom-practical-students/dp/1735340812/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=teaching+zoom&qid=1601047474&sr=8-3>
   7. Al (JJC)’s signature pedagogy that they have identified for their program:
      1. Research intensive writing
      2. Discussion based learning
      3. Project based learning
      4. Field based learning using Place as Text
3. Creating Community in a Pandemic
   1. There was discussion peppered throughout about creating community and the types of programs folks are doing.
4. Lessons Learned
   1. Considering continuing advising online (sharing screens is easier).
   2. Continue some courses online or hybrid even after pandemic is over.
   3. Summer virtual sessions to welcome new students (parents attended). May continue this at SIU

III. HCIR Meeting – 10:40am

1. Meeting minutes: Lisa motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the spring director’s meeting. Ralph 2nd. Motion passed.
2. Treasurer’s Report:
   1. Total expenses last academic year, $2530
   2. Income is about $2000
   3. Discussion followed about how to spend down our account
      1. Consider waiving membership dues this year
         1. Will need to be marketed well. Reach out specifically to schools that have not been involved in the organization.
         2. What brings value to our organization?
      2. Consider, prizes for student presentations at symposium
      3. Consider making the symposium free
      4. Hiring a student worker?
      5. Tom asked if we want to put a “floor” on the budget. David recalls that the bylaws does have information about that in it. “**ARTICLE 7. STUDENT PROJECTS FUNDSECTION 1.** Up to one half of the declining balance of the treasury of the Honors Councils of the Illinois Region for an academic year shall be available for individual Honors student’s projects. The HCIR reserves the right to limit the amount of any student award.”
   4. Lisa made a motion to suspend dues for 2021 and the fee to the Spring 2021 Symposium. Schools not currently in good standing can still come to the symposium. Motion passes unanimously.
   5. John made a motion to create an adhoc group to create a marketing effort targeting past members and new members that promotes forgiveness of fees this coming year. This may include hiring a student to help with these efforts. Tom 2nd.
      1. John suggests it may take about 20 hours. $250. Tom suggests a ceiling of $500. In end it was decided we may or may not need a student worker. The adhoc group can decide if one is needed.
      2. Motion passes
   6. Jon H moves to create student cash awards for best presentations at the Spring Symposium. The amounts to be determined by symposium organizers in consultation with treasurer. Jon also suggested adding a new ad hoc committee to create a rubric for judging the symposium presentations.
      1. Discussion surrounded creating a group to lead this effort or perhaps symposium planning group can make this part of their hosting responsibilities
      2. Al suggests maybe now is not the time to decide on the dollar amount given various unknowns and that we empower the ad hoc group to do so.
      3. Need to consider sustainability. Perhaps, we keep cash amounts bigger on virtual symposium years.
   7. Amended motion from Jon H: To create an ad hoc committee (Lisa Higgins and Andrea Radasanu offer to help) examine the formation of a new set of student awards at the Spring Symposium for top presentations. The group will present a proposal at the spring director’s meeting. Jyotsna 2nd
      1. David moves to close the discussion. Lisa 2nd
      2. Motion passes
3. Messer Grants
   1. **Spring 2020 Info:**
      1. 4 applications received (2 from 4-year institutions and 2 from 2-year institutions.)
      2. Total amount requested from all applications: $2155.
      3. Total amount awarded: $2155 but only $2000 claimed. (One student declined the award due to cancellation of events and therefore no expenditures needed covered.)
   2. **Current Cycle Info:**
      1. Fall 2020 application went live on Monday, September 22nd. Sent through the HCIR listserv.
      2. Fall 2020 applications are ***due Friday, October 9th.*** Completed documents can be sent to [capitalscholars@uis.edu](mailto:capitalscholars@uis.edu) or [mklin2@uis.edu](mailto:mklin2@uis.edu).
      3. If folks wish to serve as evaluators, ***please*** e-mail Marc Klingshirn at [mklin2@uis.edu](mailto:mklin2@uis.edu) expressing interest along with area(s) of expertise. Scoring rubric and application(s) to be evaluated will be sent shortly after the due date.
4. John motioned to approve the new bylaws section for professional grants that was created in February meeting. Ralph 2nd. Motion passed
5. Site Selection for 2022 Fall Director Meeting
   1. Richard volunteers Eastern Illinois University
6. Vice President-Elect Leadership Selection. The elected will be…
   1. Vice President – Feb 21-Feb 22
   2. President – Feb 22-Feb 23
   3. Immediate Past-President – Feb 23-Feb 24
   4. Lisa Higgins nominated herself for the role. John Garcia 2nd
      1. No other nominations
      2. Lisa voted in!
7. Discussion on 2021 HCIR Symposium Plan
   1. Discussion about move to virtual conference.
      1. Do we need an outside vendor?
   2. Suggestions about poster presentations via breakout rooms on Zoom
   3. Jessica let us know that this year’s symposium had 115 attendees and 85 presenters (30 posters)
   4. If this works well, it was suggested that we consider having a virtual conference every few years
   5. Tom moved that we make the HCIR 2021 Spring Symposium a virtual event. Lisa 2nd. Motion passes.
8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 12:06pm