***Honors Council of the Illinois Region***

**Host – Eastern Illinois University  
Fall Directors Meeting – Friday, September 30, 2022   
Notes**

**In attendance:**

Richard England; Linda Clemmons, Lisa Higgins; David Glassman; Raymond Kowalczyk; Angela Durante; Nichole DeWall; Jen Cline; Lorette Oden; Peter Hussey; Lynda Sinkiewich; Peter Hussey; Jennifer Conary; Alicia Tomasian; Jon Hageman; Heidi Lyne; David Rhea; Heidi Lyne; Natalie Johnson; Marc Klingshirn; Jyotsna Kapur; John Garcia; Charles Townsend; Steve Rowe; Jennifer Tello Buntin; Ralph Keen; Jennifer Danielson; Alicea Toso; Steve Rowe; Paul Small; Mary Kay Mulvaney

**I – Welcome and Introductions – 9:00am**

1. Presentation by David Glassman, President of EIU

* Dr. Glassman, the President of Eastern Illinois University for the past eight years, spoke briefly.
* His remarks focused on the importance of Honors Programs to the engagement and enrichment of college students and to colleges and universities in general.
* Honors Programs allow students to make connections between different disciplines and help to develop student leaders
* He concluded discussing the importance of having a robust pipeline between community college and university honors programs

1. Brief introduction from each of the meeting attendees

* there are many new faces who have just assumed their Honors position. Welcome!

**II. Recruitment Eligibility and Admission into Honors – 9:20am (Discussion by All)**

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
2. GPA considerations
3. Criteria other than standardized test scores
4. Separate application process
5. Support for those students coming from underfunded schools

* Based on the questions above, there was a discussion of many issues facing honors programs today. I have summarized these ideas by theme.
* Admissions/Recruitment—making admissions more accessible to all students
  + COD stopped taking applications in 2017. Rather, students self-select based on their GPA or ACT/SAT scores. Once students are on campus, they can also enter the Honors program as well. There are scholarship programs for Honors students. Together, these initiatives open up the program to more students.
  + National Lewis University does not only look at GPAs—students can also apply by writing creative essays, one of which focuses on a social justice question. This allows students who would have never thought they might be an honors student but who are very engaged in their education –don’t be rigid with admissions criteria
  + Other colleges also offer opportunities for students to enter their Honors Programs as continuing students or offering a path for incoming transfer students.
  + Hold a counselors’ event where the Honors directors present about their program
  + Publish a newsletter to high school counselors that includes honors information
  + Have directors attend events and stress that Honors is not just about completing more work like high school Honors or AP courses.
  + Also have students attend events to discuss what college honors classes are like, again, to counteract their experiences with AP courses.
  + Many comments that students = the best recruiters.
* Encouraging diversity in Honors Programs
  + Where colleges recruit is important; make sure to reach out to diverse high schools
  + Several colleges developed student advisory boards for diversity to help cultivate new leaders
  + Establish an EDI Peer Mentor program
  + Make sure that scholarships are inclusive
* Ideas for Honors Programs activities/support
  + Support students who attend conferences
  + Promote programs like “One book, one college” where students read an important book together
  + Create an Honors Lounge
  + Ice cream social
  + Host symposiums for honors students
  + Make a study abroad experience open to all
  + Escape rooms/scavenger hunts to know campus
  + A lot of discussion around food and its importance to all student functions!

**BREAK – 10:20 – 10:30am**

**III. HCIR Meeting – 10:30am**

1. Approval of Spring 2022 Minutes (Lisa Higgins)

* Call for discussion: No corrections
* Jon Hagemen: Moved to approve
* Marc Klingshirn: Second to approve
  + 5 abstentions because they did not attend the meeting.
  + The majority voted to approve.

1. Website update (Lisa Higgins)

* Lisa Higgins is working to update the website.
* The website currently uses the Squarespace program which is extremely outdated. The company supports this older version, but they want everyone to move to their new version
* Lisa would like to migrate to the newer version. Not easy, however. Need to physically move everything over to the new version. She proposed using COD student workers for the migration. Wants HCIR to pay for the subscription: $192/year.
* John Garcia: Harper paid for the subscription in past years. He suggested using google.sites for free (at least it is free now—they might roll out a pay structure soon).
* Lisa Higgins: can look further into other options but need a different platform.
  + Motion to let Lisa Higgins work on migrating to a new website, up to $250.00
  + John Garcia: Second
  + Approved with no opposition or abstentions.

1. Interim-Treasurer’s Report (Lynda Sinkiewich)

* Discussion of whether to collect dues for 2021
  + Background information:
  + Dues period = Calendar year
  + There was a call for dues in the fall of 2021: $80
  + This summer: the HCIR treasurer switched to Interim treasurer Lynda Sinkiewich.
  + When Lisa Higgins and Lynda Sinkiewich met this summer, they made the decision to waive dues for this year.
  + If paid dues for this year, should there be a credit for next year?
  + Decision: dues will be carried over through next year and Lynda will make sure that is it clearly communicated; she will let each college know if they have paid.
* Treasurers’ Report, FY23:
* Total Revenue on hand: $6,267.59
* Dues for 19 schools paid so far
* FY23 expenses: $125
* Ending balance: $6,142.59
  + Motion to accept treasurer’s report: Raymond Kowalczyk
  + Second: Jen Cline
  + Passed: unanimously

1. Grants (Marc Klingshirn)

* Marc gave a report on student grants.
* Spring cycle: received 2 applications from two-year colleges and 2 from four-year colleges requesting a total of $2200.
  + Only three were partially funded after the review process
  + Total of $1225 awarded
* Fall cycle: call for submissions sent September 7. No student grants submitted yet. Faculty grant still open
  + Student application deadline, 9/30/22 deadline midnight.
  + Marc asked if there should be a week extension for the student grants. Wants everything wrapped up by third week of October; has to get proposals to reviewers.
  + Left the decision to Marc—he will give students another week.

1. **Upcoming NCHC National Meetings (Lisa Higgins)**

Alicia Tomasian, John Garcia, David Rhea, Richard England, Mary Kay Mulvaney will be attending.

1. **Discussion on 2023 HCIR Symposium (Lewis and Clark Community College)**
   * February 25th, 2023, on-site

* Chaired by Peter Hussey and Jen Cline at Lewis and Clark Community College
* Discussion of housing for those who arrive Friday
  + The nearest dorms at SIUE (half hour drive).
  + Dorms were a good option, especially if other students were there as well.
  + Make sure that students from different colleges stay in the dorms so that are not only students from one school as happened in previous years
  + Also make sure that there is a breakfast at the conference for those who stay in the dorms.
* Discussion of having a speaker from Cahokia or another speaker for students who arrive earlier on Friday afternoon
* Friday Evening: trivia event
* Discussion regarding Directors Meeting modality—in person during symposium or over zoom at a later date?
* Consensus was to have it during the symposium during lunch or at end of day.

1. S**ite Selection for Fall 2023 Fall Director Meeting (Lewis and Clark Community College)**
   * **Discussion regarding meeting modality—in person or over zoom?**

* Comments about distance in terms of the timing of the meeting; need to focus on the conference and students so make sure that the meeting’s timing does not interfere with the symposium or travel home.
* Many comments about avoiding zoom as it doesn’t help to build connections. Most people spoke about the value of meeting face to face.

Conclusion: face to face meeting with possible zoom option (hyrbrid).

1. Ad-hoc Dues Committee Proposal

* David Rhea presented the committee’s proposal of a new dues structure
* The initial guiding comment was that small colleges paid too much; developed a structure that provides flexibility to the membership rate

1. New Institution (First Year of Membership Only) $25
2. Regular Member $50
3. Sustainer Member $100

* A new institution is defined as a institution that has never paid dues before or had 5 or more years of inactivity in HCIR.
* Non-new institutions shall pay the annual rate (regular or sustainer) they can afford to pay. This will be based on an honors system. There will be no evaluation of an institution to determine which level an institution will pay for a calendar year.
* There will be no difference of benefits between new institution, regular and sustainer members that can impact students or director/dean professional development opportunities.
* The HCIR Executive Committee will work to establish various forms of recognition to show appreciation for institutions paying at their respective levels. This may include, but not limited to, acknowledgement on the website, connecting new institutions to resources to grow their honors program, naming the tiered levels, award opportunities, and the like.
* If approved, this system would go in effect in calendar year 2023.
* This dues structure is similar to the model utilized by the Great Plains Honors Council.
  + - Motion to approve: Peter Husey
    - Second: Ralph Keen
    - Approved: 17 yes/0 opposed/0 abstentions
    - Schools that paid $80 for 2022 will have their payment credited to 2023 and be considered Sustainers. No refunds will be given.

1. Elections
   * Treasurer election

John Garcia nominated Lynda Sinkiewich, Heartland Community College

Alicia Tomasian seconded the nomination

Elected: 16 yes/0 opposed/0 abstentions

* Vice President election (Feb. 2023 – Feb 2024)

Jen Cline, Lewis and Clark Community College self-nominated

John Garcia seconded the nomination

Elected: 16 yes/0 opposed/0 abstentions

* + President election (Feb. 2023 – Feb 2024)

Sara Schmidt, EIU: no vote needed as the current vice president assumes the President’s role

**End – 11:54am**