Honors Council of the Illinois Region

Fall Directors’ Meeting

September 27, 2019

Richard J. Daley College

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Richard England (EIU), Sara Schmidt (EIU), Aaron James (ICC), Rocío Rivadeneyra (ISU), Al Golden (JJC), David Rhea (GSU), Alicea Toso (MVCC), Natasha Todorovich (Wright), Benli Shechter (Daley), John Garcia (Harper), Jared Olesen (IVCC), Matt Weibel (Kishwaukee), David Failing (Lewis), Michelle McCrillis (UIC), Jessica Peek (USF), Alicia Tomasian (Harper), Lisa Higgins (COD), Julia Weister, (St. Xavier)

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by John Garcia at 9:10am. John thanked Benli Shechter and Daley College for hosting the meeting. Benli introduced President of Richard J. Daley College, Dr. Janine Janosky.

**II. Welcome**

Dr. Janosky talked about using honors students’ creativity and interdisciplinarity to solve real world problems: liver transplants and new musical productions were used as examples.

**III. Introductions**

We went around the room so that everybody could introduce themselves and their roles.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

John introduced the meeting minutes from the fall 2018 Directors’ meeting. Al Golden motioned to approved fall 2018 meeting minutes. David Rhea seconded. Motion passed.

The spring meeting minutes were introduced. Some corrections for were handled such as missing names and apostrophes. Richard England moved to approve the meeting minutes after these changes were addressed. Sara Schmidt seconded. Motion passed.

**V. Spotlight: Honors at Richard J. Daley College**

Spotlight: Honors at Daley College (Benli Shechter). Benli wanted to use his spotlight to highlight some of his program’s successes and challenges along with our own challenges and successes. Benli discussed how one of the first questions that came up with his Honors Committee was the uniqueness education/curriculum/pedagogy of honors classes. Benli offers two challenges that Honors programs have. He highlighted what they do at Daley and then had us discuss these challenges in small groups and report out.

1. **How do honors course differed compared to standard courses**?
   1. Shared NCHC definition: measurably broader, deeper, or more complex. Distinctive learner-directed. Close community.
   2. Smaller class size
   3. Intended to foster participatory learning through free exchange of ideas
   4. Daley: all honors courses are structures by an umbrella theme covering two years. Use the theme determined by PTK
   5. The 2018-2019 PTK study theme is “Transformations: Acknowledging, assessing, and achieving change.”
   6. Includes 9 sub-themes
      1. networks of life
      2. economies of everything
      3. politics of identity
      4. dynamics of discovery
      5. channels of creativity
      6. visions of justice
      7. powers of connection
      8. worlds of work
      9. systems of belief
   7. Daley includes the theme in syllabi for Honors courses offered those two years.
   8. Small group discussions of what makes our courses unique.

Report outs:

* Pedagogy
* Challenge of various levels of control over courses
* Use of honors council to gatekeep courses
* Use of honors contracts
* Creativity
* Critical thinking
* Research/integrative
* Challenge of similar learning outcomes when having very different disciplines
* “If a student meets learning outcomes, they get an A. Otherwise what are the learning outcomes for”
* Using “Bloom’s taxonomy” to determine grades (used by Philosophy professor at Harper). “It was an interesting experience but was a total mess in the classroom.” John Garcia

1. **How do we determine what courses will be offered?**
   1. Daley doesn’t have a strong cohort of honors students
   2. Small group discussion: How do you do the scheduling? What to offer?
   3. Issues when offering honors sections of non-honors classes.
   4. How far out to schedule? Have room for new courses. Schedule 1-2 years out. Be flexible enough for changes in enrollment/needs but still need some predictability
   5. College of DuPage has 30 honors sections a semester. EIU has 30-40 sections a semester
      1. Give wishlist to deans and keep on top of it. But how they get scheduled is up to the division. Has to come out of faculty load (as honors has no money to pay for these)
   6. Moraine Valley CC does all the scheduling of their sections

**VI. Treasurer’s Report**

Sarah Diel-Hunt sent her treasurer’s report (see attachment sent out prior to the meeting). Our ending balance is $9,169.35. Rocio asked if revenue listed is not actual annual revenue but includes rollover balance? Consensus seems to be this is the case. Rocio cautioned that we not spend it down to much since it is not fully replaceable. Alicia moved to approve the report. Lisa Higgins seconded. Motion passed to approve the treasurer’s report.

**VII. Updates**

**Website**

A discussion was had about schools that do not pay dues and whether we should remove their names from the list of members on the website. Alicea motioned that if a school has not paid dues for the year, the school will be removed from the website the following year. Lisa Higgins seconded. Richard asked if they pay for the current year, can they get back on the website list. The consensus was that yes, if they are current, they can be added back to the list. John said he would only remove schools that did not pay 2018 dues. Motion passed.

People agreed that the new HCIR Website looked very nice. Some editorial changes were discussed. John would like pictures for the website. Please send symposium pictures to [honors@harpercollege.edu](mailto:honors@harpercollege.edu).

**Research Grants**

There is an ad-hoc committee (made up of Alicia Tomasian, Mary Kay Mulvaney, and Sara Schmidt) to look at the grants. Rocio reminded the group to include Marc Klingshirn on these conversations. They need to clarify language of the application. For example, do recipients of the grant need to present at the HCIR Spring Symposium? Al mentioned issues with students who have graduated having to come back to present. What if they are no longer at and HCIR institution? Alicia suggested having wording that if they are still enrolled at an HCIR institution, they should be expected to present. John suggested the wording, “This is a research grant. Part of the expectation of research is that you present it. Students are strongly encouraged to present.” John asked if we want it included in the application process. People said no. Al said maybe we say there is an expectation that student will share the product of the research with HCIR (does not have to be a presentation, could be a paper). He also mentioned it might be nice to have an archive of the products and students who have received the grant. Might want to consider adding wording about funding for students who do not have funding from other sources. Aaron suggests maybe a line in application asking for other sources of funding specifying how much they have received from these sources. If a student has other funding sources but it does not completely cove their cost, they could still receive funding. Ad hoc committee may add a “budget” section to include this.

Professional Development grants for Directors. Lisa, Julie, and Al are working on an application for Professional Development grants for directors who need it. Lisa moved that we have a grant for Professional Development for directors. Richard suggested we have language about funding for this. For example, that we don’t spend more than $2000 each year total across the two grants (consistent with the guideline of “no more than half the declining budget”). The language should include prioritizing student research grants over director grants. Up to $500 per grant. Discussion about whether this idea needs to be in bylaws. David Rhea suggested we try it as an ad-hoc grant before making it permanent. Alicia seconded. Motion passed.

**VIII. Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

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| 2019 | NCHC Annual Conference | November 6-10 | New Orleans, LA |
| 2020 | HCIR Student Symposium | February 29 | University of St. Francis |
|  | HCIR Fall Directors’ Meeting | September 25 | Joliet Junior College |

NCHC: John will email about a meet up at NCHC New Orleans

2021: Symposium: (John will email the larger group to find a volunteer)

2021: Fall Director’s meeting: College of DuPage will host (thank you Lisa Higgins for volunteering)

**Lunch break**

**IX. Election of New Officers**

John reminds us that Treasure/Secretary (Sara Diel-Hunt and Rocio Rivadeneyra) and grant officer (Marc Klingshirn) were all elected in fall 2018. They will have their positions until 2021. By tradition the president has been the host for the symposium, but it is not in the bylaws. Jessica (UCF) who is hosting the spring symposium would rather not be elected president as she is new to the organization. John asked for nominations for President and Vice President. Al Golden and Dave Rhea both self-nominated. After a little discussion, Dave self-nominated as president (Al seconded) and Al self-nominated as Vice President (Jessica seconded). Both motions passed, and David Rhea was elected President-elect (to assume responsibilities at the spring meeting) and Al Golden was elected Vice President.

**X. Other Business**

Lisa Higgins asked when the website would be open for symposium proposals. Jessica wondered if the registration should be on HCIR? John thought it would have to be a pass through since the host would need access to the registrations. Al offered to help Jessica with any questions she might have as she plans the symposium.

Alicia brought back the idea of a sliding scale membership fee. Discussion about whether schools stopped participating because of cost. Or maybe it was location of meetings. Aaron suggested reaching out to schools who stopped being members to ask why and maybe that could inform this discussion. Lisa mentioned that maybe we should contact all schools with honors program in Illinois to remind them that HCIR exists. John will reach out.

Al Golden: Idea of offering a benefit to participate. Why would people want to be members? Breakout sessions in the afternoon after lunch. Maybe topical: fundraising, recruitment. Or idea exchange. He is trying to plan for fall directors’ meeting in 2020.

Rocio: Wanted to thank Benli for hosting and the breakout sessions. Everyone clapped.

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm. We took a group picture.