Minutes for the HONORS COUNCIL OF THE ILLINOIS REGION

2017 FALL DIRECTORS’ MEETING

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

9:00-2:00

Attendance: Lisa Higgins—COD; Richard England—EIU; David Rhea—Governor’s State; John Garcia—Harper; Alicia Tomasian—Harper; Rocio Rivadeneyra—ISU; Al Golden—JJC; Branden McCullough—Kishwaukee; Alicea Toso—Moraine Valley; Lisa Hedrick—USF; Richard Hardy—WIU; Erik Brooks—WIU; Sean Jensen—Elgin CC; Brian Bacon—Oakton CC;

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Sarah Diel-Hunt, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director HCC Honors program, and Rick Pearce, Vice President for Learning and Student Success gave very warm welcomes. Introductions followed.

With a minor change, the minutes from the February 25, 2017 were approved.

Sarah Diel-Hunt presented on Infusing Service Learning into the Honors Curriculum at HCC. The focus of the presentation was on how the Honors program was redesigned to embed service learning within it. Besides the required Honors seminar courses, students must also take Introduction to Service Learning. The presentation provided a clear example of how to meaningful integrate service learning into an Honors program.

Karen Huber, the ICISP Coordinator shared a presentation on the structure and offerings of Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs(ICISP). Al Golden shared information about JJC’s study abroad grants.

Honors Articulation Agreements: John Garcia initiated the conversation on articulation agreements between 2 year and 4 year institutions for Honors students. One goal was to create a shared repository of information related to the agreements we have between our institution as well as to have a list of which four year institutions have honors programs. An additional goal is to develop shared agreements between schools, perhaps a common agreement between all 2 year and 4 year institutions.

The discussion continued with directors describing the agreements they currently have with other schools. Antidotal stories were shared about student experiences in transition from honors at a 2 year institution to 4 year institution. Often, it seems, that students encounter barriers in these transitions. However, many directors thought that if there was a seamless transition between Honors programs that it could facilitate engaging students early in honors at the 2 year institutions with the incentive that they could move into Honors at a 4 year institution upon transfer.

Alicia suggested that perhaps we could build an opportunity or time into the Spring Honors Student symposium for students from 2 year institutions to meet with Honors directors at the 4 year institutions they are considering. This spurred further discussion between directors regarding how connections could be made.

John Harper suggested that the next step be that we send Brian Bacon at Elgin Community College with our contact information and what your program offers for transfer students. Two year institutions should send what institutions they already have with.

It was suggested that as we move forward with establish agreements between institutions that we could go about it in one of two ways: 1) consider the program at the 2 year and see if it matches closely with parts of one at our four year institutions, or 2) just say your graduates from honors are automatically accepted. Concern was expressed regarding our follow through on these endeavors. This is something we have been discussing for three years or more but have yet to create anything concrete. To keep the momentum moving, Sean Jensen volunteered to have his institutional research department send out an email to all requesting information.

The Treasurer’s report was presented for informational purposes. Based on the balance available in the account, a discussion again ensued regarding how to more appropriately use the available funds. Costs of hosting the Director’s meeting are not being covered by HCIR and can be onerous on the Honors programs. Also, the costs of the Spring symposium are not always covered by the registration fees. It was suggested that HCIR could cover or at least defray some of these costs. At this point, Rick Hardy made the motion that “HCIR will contribute up to $300.00 towards the cost for the lunch at the fall director’s meeting”. Branden McCullough seconded and the motion passed unanimously. HCIR will cover F2017 luncheon.

The proposed policy changes to the Margaret Messner Student Grant Award focused on the issues of 1) should we fund student attendance or presentations at a conferences? 2) Should we fund only attendance at Honors conferences? The proposed language was amended to reflect the discussion. Al Golden made the motion to accept the new language for the research grant as revised. The motion was seconded by and Rocio Rivadeneyra. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding the spring director’s meeting ensued regarding the purpose of the meeting, given that it is often too short to accomplish any substantial business. It was proposed that we suspend the director’s meeting to open it up for a more open house type experience, where 4 year institutions could provide information about their programs and meet students in the current program. Others expressed concern that the meeting was important to them as it provided time to connect with other directors. Richard England suggested that the directors still have lunch together and do business, if needed, but perhaps expand the lunch period to accommodate a shortened meeting time and use the other time for directors to meet with prospective students.

The schedule for upcoming meetings and conferences was updated:

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| 2017 | HCIR Fall Directors’ Meeting | September 29 | Heartland CC |
|  | NCHC Annual Conference | November 8-12 | Atlanta, GA |
| 2018 | HCIR Student Symposium | February 24 | Eastern Illinois University |
|  | HCIR Fall Directors’ Meeting | September 28 | Illinois State University |
|  | NCHC Annual Conference | November 7-11 | Boston, MA |
| 2019 | HCIR Student Symposium | February 23 | Harper College |
|  | HCIR Fall Directors’ Meeting | September 27 | City Colleges - Cassandra |
|  | 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 | JJC |

A motion to adjourn was made by Alicia Tomasian, seconded by Al Golden. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.