TO: Honors Program Committee
Jennifer Ladino, Chair  
John Foltz  
Stacy Camp  
Steve Penoncello  
Allan Caplan  
Mickinzie Johnson, HSAB President  
Pamela Bathurst  
Alton Campbell, Director  
Sanjay Sisodiya  
Chris Price

RE: December 04, 2014 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 02:02 p.m. by Jennifer Ladino, Chair, with the following members present: Allan Caplan, Sanjay Sisodiya, Mickinzie Johnson, Alton Campbell, Holly LaHann and Chris Price. Steve Penoncello, John Foltz, Stacy Camp and Pamela Bathurst were not able to attend.

AGENDA ITEMS

• Welcome and Introductions: Chair Ladino opened the meeting and asked Mickinzie Johnson, HLC President to give her report.

• Honors Leadership Council (HLC): President Mickinzie Johnson noted that the Honors Student Advisory Board had voted to change their name to Honors Leadership Council as a better descriptor of who they are and what they do as a group.
  a. Completed activities:
     i. Harry Potter Night great success
  b. On-going activities:
     i. Fundraising and T-Shirt sale (sales are now making a profit!)
        1. HLC began the year with approximately $50.00 and now has $1,500.00.
  c. Future activities:
     i. Jan 23: Open Mike Night (there will be tryouts first) and then the Formal Dance is being planned
     ii. HLC and Alton plan to attend the Western Regional Honors Conference in April in Reno, Nevada. The students have proposed a panel presentation on our unique “Things That Matter” groups. The students are putting in a request to ASUI for a travel grant to help pay costs.

• Honors Program Update:
  a. Introduction to Distinguished Scholarships by Holly Lahann:
     i. Goal is to increase scholarship awareness and number of applicants across campus
        1. Holly distributed handouts on national scholarships and application timetable
        2. Alton asked members for suggestions on how to get the word out to students and advisors relative to national scholarships.
           a. Jenn commented that students do not read emails
           b. Allan suggested developing a list of students to contact using their GPA as a criteria.
              (Registrar’s Office can help with this)
           c. Sanjay noted that some colleges have centralized advising and advisers could be notified.
              Allan remarked that advising can be hit or miss and promotion of scholarships during that time may not get the best results.
           d. MicKinzie asked if there was a way to give some information to students on what they might qualify for and then how to apply. Perhaps the Scholarship Office could have some “space” on the UI front web page that would direct student/parents to the Office
           e. Allan suggested contacting the Argonaut and seeing if they would do an article on Holly and scholarships as an introduction. He also noted that the monitors/TV screens in the Commons runs announcements and perhaps they should be used.
     ii. Holly is developing an Honors Student Ambassador Program. She has received 10 applications and will select five to six for the inaugural group.
  b. Envision Idaho: Over 300 prospective honors students attended the honors luncheon at Envision Idaho.
  c. Honors Thesis: The Honors Thesis Advisory Committee met and recommended a list of required elements for an honors thesis. Based on this advice, an Honors Thesis Proposal will be developed by Alton and presented to the Honors Program Committee in the spring. Discussion will continue relative to honors staffing to handle the increased workload.
  d. The student lounge furniture has arrived!
  e. Web site: The honors web site is being revised to meet the new standards for display on mobile apps. This is a campus wide mandate.
• **Honors Course Proposals for Spring/Summer 2015:**
  a. “Banned Books” proposed by Sayantani Dasgupta for Fall 2015
     i. The HLC Students supported the course and thought the topic would be appealing.
     ii. The proposal was approved unanimously.
  b. “Nature, Culture and Societies” proposed by Somaditya Banerjee, Ashely Kerr, and Dilshani Sarathchandra for Spring 16
     i. The students suggested that a more descriptive title and course description is needed in order to appeal to students.
     ii. The committee noted that the class was humanities combined with science and that the title and course description could do a better job of representing the course.
     iii. Alton electronically polled the members who were absent; and the course proposal passed unanimously.
  c. Tom Bitterwolf will likely teach Energy Issues in Fall 15

• **Development:** Alton met with Jim Zuba and is developing a plan to raise money for Honors for additional scholarships and program support.

Meeting adjourned at 02:50 p.m.

Next Meeting will be held sometime in February. Chris Price will solicit input for a best time.

Attachments:
1. Agenda
2. Dasgupta course proposal
3. Nature, Culture and Society course proposal