Oct. 15, 2015 Minutes
The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Sanjay Sisodiya, with the following members present: David Pfeiffer, Ashley Kerr, Brian He, Jennifer Downen, and Alton Campbell.

- Welcome and Introductions: Chair Sisodiya welcomed everyone.

- Honors Leadership Council (HLC): HLC Co-President Jennifer Downen recapped successful activities conducted and scheduled over the semester. HLC’s goal is to host approximately two activities and one service project per month.
  a. Recently Completed: Swing dancing, 15 people
  b. Upcoming Events:
     i. Archimedes Ball (10/16/2015), Island Getaway Theme, 1912 Center
     iii. Nursing Home service event (11/7/2015),
     iv. Make a Difference Day Honors Team (11/14/2015);
  c. Looking Glass Literary Magazine is putting together a review/publishing committee
  d. Honors t-shirts are ordered

- Honors Program Update: Summary by Alton
  a. Enrollment:
     i. We have 149 total new, first-year students, which is down from a high of 179 last year; but it is the second highest entering Honors class ever! This constitutes approximately 9.37% of the UI first-year class, with approximately the same student academic profile as in past years.
     ii. We don’t have a final, absolute number for the total number of honors students enrolled in fall 2015, but close approximations show that the Honors Program will constitute about 8% of the total UI student body. For comparison, the average Honors Program/College enrollment across about 20 universities in the northwest is ~ 5% of the student body.
  b. Honors courses for spring 2015: There are 17 total courses (see attachment); and we are still waiting on confirmation for Phil 103.
c. Many co-curricular activities are in progress and planned (see list in agenda). There has been particularly high student interest and participation in the new “prof and a movie night,” lunches with professors, and fireside chats.

- **Honors Thesis Participation and Progress**
  a. The RFP for honors research grants was emailed to honors students in early Sept. and a reminder was mailed 10/15 with a due date of Monday, Nov. 16. The UHP Committee or a subset of the group will review and make decisions on the proposals.
  b. The concept for a new honors course that could include research methods and writing an honors thesis proposal that might be 1-3 credits was discussed
    i. The idea was strongly supported, as once students have written a proposal, they would be much more likely to complete an honors thesis.
    ii. Consider offering the course with different workshop components so that students could attend even if they weren’t enrolled in the course and the workshops might have research information and content from different disciplines.
    iii. Consider faculty team teaching approaches
    iv. Alton will talk with more faculty and bring a course proposal to the Nov. or Jan. meeting
  c. After discussion, the honors thesis will continue to be an option and not a requirement for either the Honors Core Award or Honors Certificate. Over the next 2-3 years, we will build a culture of research and an expectation of completing an honors thesis that will begin at honors orientation for first-year students. Honors will work collaboratively with the new Undergrad Research Office on getting more students involved and on marketing undergrad research workshops.

- **Reviewed and made suggestions to 2015-16 honors recruiting plan**
  a. The recruiting plan was supported
  b. Ashley noted that if the enrollment target of the honors program is 5% of the student body, why are we recruiting so hard?
  c. Alton noted that we were contributing to increasing total UI enrollment and also to recruiting top students to the UI. We are also putting a special effort into recruiting multicultural and international students.

- **Next meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2:00-3:00 p.m. room 315 UI Commons**

- **2:45 meeting adjourned**