TO: Honors Program Committee  
Sanjay Sisodiya, Chair  
John Foltz  
Stacy Camp  
Pam Bathurst  
Ashley Kerr  
Brian He  
John Foltz  
Chris Price, Management Assistant  
Alton Campbell, Director  
Jennifer Downen, HLC Co-President  
Krista Stanley, HLC Co-President

Nov. 17, 2015 Minutes
The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Sanjay Sisodiya, with the following members present: David Pfeiffer, Brian He, John Foltz, Pam Bathurst, Jennifer Downen, Holly LaHann, and Alton Campbell.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Sisodiya welcomed everyone.

2. Honors Leadership Council (HLC): HLC Co-President Jennifer Downen recapped successful activities conducted since the last meeting. HLC’s goal is to host approximately two activities and one service project per month.
   a. Harry Potter Night, about 30 attendees, fun was had by all
   b. Nursing Home service event (11/7/2015),
   c. Looking Glass Literary Magazine is nearly ready to go to press
   d. Honors t-shirts are being picked up

3. Honors Program Update: Summary by Alton
   a. Enrollment:
      i. We have 149 total new, first-year students with an average academic profile of 3.93, 1317 SAT, and 29 ACT,
      ii. We have 516 total honors students which is a 10% increase over fall 2014. Honors enrollment comprises 6.6% for the UI student body
   b. There are 17 Honors courses for spring 2015 (see attachment)
   c. The UI Honors Program has been invited to be in the 3rd, 2016 edition of A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs to be published next summer or fall.
   d. “Food for Thought” Lunch:
      i. Nov. 5 with Ro Afatchao (International Studies) and Janice Capel Anderson (Psychology) (5 students in attendance)
   e. Fireside Chats:
      i. Wed. Oct. 28, Pam Bathurst: “Opening doors with the sound of your voice” (13 students, and great topic and discussion).
      ii. Mon. Nov. 16, Joy Passante, “A Father’s War, A Daughter’s Book: Making History Personal” about her new book, and the process of research and writing. (6 students, excellent discussion)
   f. Honors “Movie and a Prof Night”
      i. Friday, Oct. 23, 7:00, Luke Harman (Biology prof) in Bio 277, “Young Frankenstein” (8 students in attendance)
      ii. Friday, Jan. 22, 7:00, Irina Kappler Crookston (Department Chair Modern Languages) movie to be selected.
   g. Spokane Chinese Lantern Festival (coordinated by Holly on 11/1/15 with two 12-passenger vans and 18 students)
4. **The 3 course proposals** listed below were approved by the Honors Program Committee and by the Honors Leadership Council for teaching in fall 2016 and spring 2017.
   - Seminar 2: “Collective Memory in the Pacific Northwest,” INTR 404, 1 cr, 2 hr seminar for 8 weeks, Spring 2017, Instructors: Erin Stoddart, MSI, and Rick Stoddart, MLIS, EdD (Library)
   - Seminar 3: “Farm to Table: The Political Economy of Eating,” Soc. 404, 3cr, Ryanne Pilgeram (Soc)

5. **The 4 student research proposals** listed below were approved for funding pending no overlapping funding by the College of Science through their Hill Fellowship Program. Alton will talk with Mark Nielsen about which projects will be funded by COS.
   - Taricha granulosa (Rough-skinned newt) population in Moscow, ID and environmental factors affecting their reproductive success by Courtney Flynn mentored by Luke Harmon in Biology. Funding request = $751.75
   - Aggregation Effects of Helping Health Workers in an Agent-Based Model by Dorothy Catey and mentored by Bert Baumgaertner in Phil and Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. Funding request = $1500. There was discussion and some concern over funding a student computer, but the computer will remain the property of the faculty mentor.
   - Predictions for the Properties of Neutron Stars in the High Precision Era by Alison LaDuke and mentored by Francesca Sammarruca in Physics. Funding request = $2348. Only one trip to a conference was to be funded, and she was to seek funding from other sources.
   - Optimizing Vanillic Acid Demethylation in *Methylobacterium extorquens* via Genetic Engineering by Alyssa Baugh and mentored by Chris Marx in Biology. Funding request = $991.

6. The committee agreed that Alton (with input from Chris and Holly) should continue to make decisions on “exception applications” (students who don’t meet the minimum GPA/SAT/ACT correlation, [http://www.uidaho.edu/honors/admission/correlation](http://www.uidaho.edu/honors/admission/correlation)) and on international student applications rather than form a specific “Petitions Committee.”

7. The concept for an **Honors, 1-cr, proposal writing class** was approved. It would include an overview of completing an Honors Thesis and working with a mentor and be primarily focused on choosing a thesis topic and writing a Thesis proposal in collaboration with the mentor. Potential faculty and topics for including on the syllabus were discussed. Each enrolled student must have a willing Honors Thesis mentor before signing up for the class. The class would be capped at 12-15 students, but all UHP students would be invited to general class presentations that might be of broad general interest. INTR 499: Directed Study: Honors Thesis Proposal Writing (1cr) to be offered spring and fall semesters. Alton will consider faculty for spring; and David Pfeiffer is considering teaching it in the fall.

8. The Committee ran out of time and did not get to the agenda item on the Distinguished Scholarship Program by Holly LaHann. This will be delayed to the next meeting.

9. Final comments (Sanjay)
   - Spring semester meeting dates and times will be arranged by Chris Price from a poll of the committee members trying to find a time that works for everyone. Meetings will be scheduled in mid-late January, February, and March – and hold a date in April, if needed.
   - Topics to include:
     - Strategic plan
     - Assessment
     - Development
     - Pros and cons of an Honors Program vs Honors College
     - Honors courses for the future such as Ethics 103 (2-3 sections per year), Honors Stats 201/301, and Honors Econ 201/202
10. Meeting adjourned at 3:05

11. Stacy Camp noted in an email to Alton that she was overly committed for the year and would need to step down from her UHP committee assignment. Alton has contacted the Faculty Secretary for assignment of a new faculty committee member.