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

February 16, 2016 Minutes
The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Sanjay Sisodiya, with the following attendees present: David Pfeiffer, Krista Stanley, Nishiki Sugawara-Beda, Ashley Kerr, Holly LaHann, and Alton Campbell.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Sisodiya welcomed everyone.

2. Honors Leadership Council (HLC): HLC Co-President Krista Stanley complimented this year’s HLC as being the most active honors group that she had seen; and she recapped successful activities conducted since the last meeting and HLC plans for the spring. HLC’s goal is to host approximately two activities and one service project per month. About 15-20 honors students will be volunteering at the Food Bank and at the Homes for Hope in Lewiston on Saturday morning.

3. Honors Program updates, in collaboration with HLC
   • See draft list of honors courses for fall 2016 (attachment)
   • Fireside Chats for spring:
     o Thursday, Jan. 21: “Who is the “I” in “I am happy!”?” Jay Feldman, Philosophy Department, with 32 in attendance
     o Tuesday, Feb. 9: “A Conversation About Islam and Cultural Traditions with the UI Muslim Student Association” with 14 in attendance
     o Tuesday, Feb. 23: “Economic Issues of the 2016 Presidential Election,” Stephanie Ramirez, College of Business
     o Thursday, April 14: Sharon Stoll, College of Education, title forthcoming
   • Food for Thought Lunch with Provost John Wiencek, Feb. 3 in UI Commons with 6 students in attendance
   • Ice Skating Night: Friday, Jan. 22 with about 150 attendees
   • Open Mic night, Thursday, Jan. 28 in Haddock Auditorium in Music Building with 70+ attendees. Organized and let by Paul Hanna and Melissa Damele, honors residence hall RAs.
   • Rock Climbing Night: Thursday, February 11, at UI Rec Center with 11 students in attendance
   • Honors “Movie and a Prof Night,” Friday, Jan. 19, 7:00, Life Science 277. Irina Kappler Crookston (Department Chair Modern Languages and Cultures). Movie: Qu’est-ce qu’on a fait au Bon Dieu (English title: Bad Weddings), well-received with 8 students in attendance

   Alton will 1) carefully review honors course evaluations taking them into consideration as courses and professors are chosen for future semesters, 2) determine what Honors data can be obtained from current UI surveys such as CIRP, NSSE, Alumni Survey, and Senior Exit Survey as compiled by the UI Research and Assessment Office, 3) conduct honors student focus groups (one session with HLC and one with Honors Ambassadors has been completed, and 4) conduct an honors faculty focus group, to be led by Sanjay without the Director in attendance. Alton will arrange the faculty focus group meeting and create a first draft of questions/talking points for Sanjay. Dave Pfeiffer suggested an honors alumni survey after graduation that might ask about student’s honors experience while at the
UI, what they are doing after graduation, and how they are using their degree. If data is not available from the surveys in (2) above, the committee will need to discuss what additional data is desired and how best to survey students and alumni in the 2016-17 academic year. The Honors Program Committee will discuss the assessment findings and make recommendations at the April meeting.

5. **Update on Distinguished Scholarship Program** (Holly LaHann, 10-15 min)
Holly LaHann, Distinguished Scholarship Coordinator, provided an overview of the relatively new, UI Distinguished Scholarship Program, recent successes and student award recipients, workshops and presentations created and scheduled for students, and the new scholarship web site. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that Holly should try to schedule a meeting with the Dean and Department Heads in each college and also consider making presentations to specific departments so that faculty can be better informed and encouraged to nominate students.

6. **Discussion of a new honors curriculum:** With more and more honors students entering the UI having completed 20-60 credits of AP and dual enrollment courses from high school that meet many of the UI general education requirements, the committee agreed that like many other honors programs nationally, we need to review our honors curriculum and consider some alternative approaches. An innovative curriculum recently developed at the Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champagne and presented at the NCHC annual conference in November 2015 was discussed as an example.
   - [http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/honors/james/credit-experiences/](http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/honors/james/credit-experiences/)
   - [http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/honors/james/requirements/newrequirementtable9.16.15.pdf](http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/honors/james/requirements/newrequirementtable9.16.15.pdf)

It was decided to form a committee including Honors Program Committee (HPC) members and students. Dave Pfeiffer, Ashley Kerr, and Krista Stanley volunteered to be on the committee. Alton will confer with Sanjay as to choosing a couple of honors teaching faculty to serve on the committee, convene meetings, and report back to the HPC at the April meeting.

7. Final comments (Sanjay)
   - **Spring semester meeting dates**
     - Tuesday, March 22nd from 3:00 – 4:00 pm
     - Tuesday, April 19th from 3:00 – 4:00 pm
   - Meeting adjourned at 3:05