Chair Tom Traynor called the meeting to order at 11:05 in 238 Millett Hall. Attending were Donna Miles Curry, William Slattery, Paul Hershberger, Leo Finkelstein, Carol Wagner Williams, Susan Carrafiello, and guest Alex Wenning. The minutes of the November 12 meeting were approved.

Mary Kenton provided an update for the Incoming Scholarship Subcommittee. Financial Aid has received over 325 qualified applications, about the same overall number as last year. Both Nursing and Science and Math numbers are up this year. We should receive the students’ files on Application Xtender by the middle of February. We will hold interviews during finals week and get the award letters out by April 1. Individual readers and reading groups will have to get their choices to Mary Kenton by March 9 or earlier.

The members voted to approve allowing students going on Ambassador trips to Poland and Ireland this summer to earn UH 400 credit for the experience. The proposal for a trip to Switzerland was tabled. The issue was the requirement for 8.0 credit hours. Susan Carrafiello will discuss the Committee’s concerns with Drs. Guzzo and Twill.

The proposal for an Honors Program at the Lake Campus was tabled.

Mary Kenton provided a brief update on students applying for national and international scholarships. We have strong candidates for the Goldwater and the Phi Kappa Phi. James Dahlman is also in contention for a NIH Cambridge/Oxford Fellowship. There are also several students interested in the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship program.

Alex Wenning reported that he will be taking six students to the MEHA conference in Kalamazoo this spring. They will present a panel based on their experience in an Honors Learning Community in the fall.

Susan Carrafiello reported that the Honors Institute went well despite bad weather. About 750 people turned out to hear Nicholas Kristof deliver a powerful keynote. Attendance at the Symposium was reasonably good. The audience grew as the snowy morning progressed, and we had a good crowd for Eleanor Clift’s luncheon address. Planning is already underway for next year’s event.

The meeting ended with a sobering discussion about the economy and budgets for next year. It is still too early to know the extent to which the Honors Program budget will be impacted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The committee will probably need two meetings in spring. Lori Dock will collect schedules early in the quarter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kenton
Secretary to the Committee