



2020 Annual Report

Welcome from the President



This is not what we planned for 2020. None of us would have ever imagined the reality that Covid-19 has forced upon us. All of us have had to adapt to living, working, and playing from home. Transferring our honors programs and colleges into a virtual world has been a massive task. Nevertheless, we as honors administrators, faculty, staff, and students have met the challenge head on.

I will be the first to admit how disappointed I was when the decision to cancel the conference was made. Though it was a necessary decision, it certainly was not an easy one. The Board was tasked with putting our members' safety first and saving NRHC from financial ruin. Thankfully, we succeeded in both counts and now NRHC is faced with the next great challenge—navigating in a post-Covid-19 world—none of us quite know where things will be and when this new *abnormal* will fade away.

While Covid-19 seems to have taken away so much—our ability to gather and celebrate our students' research; our graduating students' commencement activities, the hope of meeting in-person at the NCHC conference this fall in Texas, and more—it has also given to us. The ample time at home has allowed us to take a hard look at the world around us and to begin to demand change to make this country a place that is inclusive and respectful of all. NRHC's statement on the murder of George Floyd and Systemic Racism is addressed in this report. Perhaps our ability to address these problems is the silver lining of Covid-19.

We have prepared this annual report for the membership. The primary purpose of the report is to provide information regarding changes the NRHC is undergoing as it seeks to improve the range and quality of services it offers you and your students. We know it is an exhaustive document, but it is important to recognize the many initiatives of this organization.

The focus of this year's report is the NRHC budget, how NRHC navigated during Covid-19, our initial plans as we start to look toward 2021, amongst many other updates.

Please review this important report in preparation for our Regional Business Meeting on Friday, June 12. Here is how to join us via Zoom:

<https://ncc-zoom.zoom.us/j/97654295280>

Meeting ID: 976 5429 5280

We look forward to “seeing” you then.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. MacDonald

President and 2020 Conference Co-Chair

Business Meeting Agenda

Friday, June 12, 2020

Via Zoom

11:00 AM

Establish Quorum

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Call to Order | Kathryn MacDonald |
| 2. Approval of Fall 2019 Business Meeting Minutes | Richard Cohen |

Reports of Officers and Board Members

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 3. President's Report | Kathryn MacDonald |
| 4. Executive Treasurer's Report | Michael Tasto |
| 5. Albany 2020 Conference Report | Irina Ellison and Kathryn MacDonald |
| 6. Student Representatives' Report | Taylor Bennett and Bryan Pimentel |
| 7. Faculty Representatives' Report | Linda Kobylarz and AnnMarie DelliPizzi |

Unfinished Business

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 8. Voting on Amendments to Constitution | Kathryn MacDonald |
| a. Dues Increase | |
| b. Webmaster | |
| c. Immediate Past President | |
| 9. Strategic Plan | Kathryn MacDonald |
| 10. NRHC Journal – <i>Illuminate</i> | Kathryn MacDonald |
| 11. Updated Member Proposal | Ross Wheeler, Queens College (CUNY) |
| 12. Spring 2020 NRHC Board Elections – | Kathryn MacDonald |
| a. Faculty Representative (1) | |
| b. Vice President | |
| c. Student Representatives (2) | |

New Business

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 13. Planning for 2021 Conference | Chris Brittain and Irina Ellison |
| 14. Future Conference Sites | Michael Tasto, Chris Brittain and Kathryn MacDonald |
| 15. NRHC Member Involvement | Kathryn MacDonald |
| a. Diversity and Inclusion Committee | |
| b. Other Committees | |

Fall 2019 Business Meeting Minutes



Northeast Regional Honors Council

Dedicated to the Engagement and Support of Honors Undergraduate Learning

Business Meeting Friday, November 8th, 2019 New Orleans - Grand Couteau

Establish Quorum

1. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Kat called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
 - b. Andrew Martino spoke about NCHC experiences. Flyers were available.
 - c. The Board introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Spring 2019 Business Meeting Minutes
 - a. Helen Fallon moved to accept the minutes. Vanessa Dimas 2nd.
 - i. Mike stated that unpaid funds were \$6,000 as opposed to \$60,000 that was written.
 - b. The minutes were approved.

Reports of Officers and Board Members

3. Executive Treasurer's Report
 - a. The financial report was distributed via email and hard copies were available. Our balance is increasing and is expected to increase.
 - b. Our taxes are being completed.
 - c. We are transitioning to QuickBooks.
 - d. Invoices have been sent out.
 - e. We're trying to get tax exempt status.
 - f. Costs for conference fees and hotel rates are planned to be flat for the next couple of years.
 - g. We only have two outstanding receipts which is significantly lower than previous years. Record keeping has improved drastically.
 - h. We have proposed a dues increase from \$100 to \$200.
 - i. We're putting away \$100,000 into an interest paying account. We plan to do this every couple of years to build a fund that will bear enough interest to help fund scholarships.
 - j. We purchased AV equipment for about \$6,000 which will represent a significant cost savings going forwards.
 - i. Chromebooks have also been bought so each room will have a computer available.
 - k. The report will be filed and available online.
4. Baltimore Conference Recap
 - a. Information about the conference is available in the information packet that was distributed.
 - b. Thank you for your feedback. It has been taken into consideration for Albany.
 - i. We heard you about the food and we are addressing it for Albany.
 - c. The number of cancellations and No Shows was high and may be something that needs to be addressed.

- d. Food prices were very high in Baltimore.
- e. A question was asked about 2-year versus 4-year acceptance rate.
 - i. We have not crunched those numbers but can.
 - ii. Our rubric for this year is available online.
 - iii. Mike reviewed acceptance rates over the past couple of years.
- 5. Albany Conference Update and Proposals
 - a. The theme is Finding Your Voice: Speaking Truth to Power in recognition of the anniversary of women's suffrage.
 - b. We've settled on our keynote speaker – Shirley Anne Jackson. She's the president of RPI, the first African American Woman to receive a degree from MIT and she invented caller ID.
 - c. The Thursday evening event will start at 7pm in response to feedback from Baltimore.
 - d. Consultant's Corner is on Friday from 5-6pm.
 - e. The Student's Caucus and Business meeting will be on Saturday after the Presidential Lunch.
 - f. The proposal deadline is next Friday, November 15th.
 - g. Nominations for awards are opening soon.
 - h. We need submissions for Cover Art.
 - i. Important dates and times are summarized in the packet that was distributed.
 - j. All paper presentations will have AV available.
- 6. Student Representative Report and Student Activities Committee
 - a. Thursday night is a relaxed game night and ice cream social.
 - b. Friday night is Open Mic night. Early registration will be sent out in late February or early March. On site applications will be available.
 - c. Starry Night is the theme for the Student Gala. We'll have our own photo booth.
 - d. Nominations for the SAC are still being accepted.
- 7. Faculty Representative Report
 - a. Scholarships and Funding
 - i. 10 minority scholarships used to be awarded on a first come-first served basis based upon a basic form. Starting this year we now have 20 available. In addition to the registration fee students will receive \$50 at the conference to use as needed. A more formal application will be used this year. The Program Director will need to attest that the student is eligible for the award. The student must have a proposal accepted to receive the scholarship.
 - ii. We have about \$3000 available for PITP and Honors Semesters. They'll be accepted on a rolling basis.
 - b. Big Picture/Consultant's Corner
 - i. Please fill out the survey so we can hear your thoughts on the Big Picture and Consultant's Corer.
 - c. Proposal acceptances will be sent out on December 14th. Minority scholarship application opens on December 15th. Registration doesn't start till late January and notifications will be sent before registration opens.
 - i. If we continue to build our reserve fund we hope to return more money to the region. Since it is now a competitive scholarship hopefully the students will feel a sense of accomplishment for winning the award.
 - ii. The rubric will be shared soon.
 - d. A question was asked about the room block to see if more rooms will be made available. We've contracted for the same number of rooms as Baltimore. After they fill we can work with the hotel to open up more rooms. The types of rooms made available are at the discretion of the hotel. We've asked for as many double doubles as possible. We can't contract too many because it's a financial risk for the region. Don't panic if you don't immediately get a room as we can usually work with the hotel to open up more rooms.

- e. A question was asked about how to approve a student's proposal. Kat reviewed how to approve the proposal. Chris stated that we don't actually turn away proposals that haven't been approved, we'll check with Director's as needed.
- f. We'll continue to offer a free registration for each 12 students registered.
- g. Mike said he'd prefer checks as opposed to credit cards due to the cost savings involved.

Unfinished Business

8. Proposed Membership Dues Increase

- a. This is our third meeting discussing the dues increase from \$100 to \$200. The last dues increase was back in 2013. Although a vote could be called today we are going to wait until after Albany to vote due to the fact that most schools don't pay their dues until the conference. After Albany, all that paid their dues will receive the ballot.
 - i. Last year we had 95 institutions who paid dues. There currently are 7 institutions current on dues.
- b. No questions/comments were asked.

9. Strategic Plan

- a. Tony has developed a draft of a strategic plan however it isn't yet available to be shared.
- b. We need people to help work on the Strategic Plan.
- c. We hope to unveil it in Albany.

10. NRHC Journal – Illuminate

- a. Illuminate has been launched! 17 different members have had student work published.
- b. It is available online at Illuminate.nrhc.com
 - i. Honors Directors of student's published will receive hard copies. Students will also get a physical copy.
- c. A 2nd edition will be published next Fall based upon the Albany theme.
 - i. Students who are doing paper presentations should also submit their papers to Illuminate.
- d. 20 out of 28 submissions were accepted. 2 students withdrew their submissions.

New Business

11. Future Conference Sites

- a. We are a large conference so that limits where we can go for conferences.
- b. The Board has generated its own RFP and is directly negotiating with hotels. A third party is no longer going to be used as they did not assist us.
 - i. The intermediary costs us about \$10,000.
- c. We are probably limited to 8 or 9 cities that have Ballrooms big enough to accommodate us.
 - i. We're looking at Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Philadelphia is probably more expensive but Pittsburgh has been visited more recently and is further away for most schools.
 - ii. We always rely on Local Hosts for help.

12. Spring 2020 NRHC Board Elections

- a. Kat reviewed how board positions evolve over time (VP to President Elect to President to Immediate Past President)
- b. Faculty Representative (1)
 - i. 2-year commitment
- c. Vice President
 - i. 4-year commitment
- d. Student Representatives (2)
 - i. 1-year commitment

- e. Chris highlighted how much he's enjoyed serving and strongly encourages others to run next year.

13. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

- a. Webmaster
 - i. Name is proposed to be changed to Web Coordinator and extend the term from 2 to 3 years.
 - 1. Susan Deinan moved to accept and Lucy Webb and 2nd.
 - 2. Motion was accepted to be voted on after Albany.
- b. Immediate Past President
 - i. The duties of immediate past president isn't in the constitution. Linda wrote language to include the duties into the constitution.
 - 1. Julia Fennel moved to accept and Zachary Idello 2nd.
 - 2. Motion was accepted to be voted on after Albany.
 - ii. A question was asked as to who takes over if the President can't fulfill their duties. In other organizations the Vice President steps up. It was suggested that we have a proposal to formalize succession.
- c. Member Proposal
 - i. Ross Wheeler from Queens College submitted a proposal for the region to review. The proposal derives from the Board's decision to pay stipends to the Executive Board. The feeling is that the stipends shifts the nature of NRHC from a "volunteer model" to a "paid model". The proposal stipulates that any reimbursement to Board members must be discussed for two business meetings before being voted on. In the past when stipends were paid they were approved by the membership. That did not happen this time. There is no language in the constitution that prohibits this. This proposal would change that.
 - 1. Liz Hynes-Musnisky motioned to accept the proposal and Susan Deinan 2nd it.
 - 2. Susan voiced support for the proposal.
 - 3. Ross spoke to the importance of shared governance.
 - 4. The extraordinary amount of work of the Board was recognized.
 - 5. Julia Fennell spoke to how the proposal protects the Board.
 - 6. Kat McDonald spoke to how the language for reimbursement can be problematic. She put \$1700 for Illuminate on her personal card to pay for it and it isn't manageable to wait a full year.
 - a. Ross spoke to how the Executive Board has the power to approve reimbursements. This proposal would only impact stipends and not reimbursements.
 - 7. It was suggested to strike "reimbursements" from the proposal.
 - 8. Mike spoke to how we have been transparent in the past and reimbursements for travel will no longer be offered.
 - 9. The person who initially started offering stipends regrets doing so. She feels that monetizing the board was a bad direction.
 - 10. Helen Fallon spoke to the budget cuts her school is experiencing and how she's fighting for reimbursements from her school. She spoke how many people can't pay for their own travels and to "grovel for dollars" isn't something Board members should have to do.
 - 11. Andrew Martino asked about how to separate out the transparency issue from the monetary issue.
 - 12. Ann Bomberger spoke to how she wouldn't be able to serve on the board without the stipend.
 - 13. Ross read the proposal as amended.

14. The motion was tabled for future consideration in Albany with two abstentions.

Lucy Laufé will be running for the NCHC board. She asked for support.

Andrew Martino moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Monica Van Dieren

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

President's Report

Announcements

- New NRHC website via Wix.com – thank you to Ann Bomberger and Chris Brittain for designing it!
- NRHC Award Winners – Congratulations to all!
 - o Honors Student of the Year - Four-Year Institution - Kai-Lou Yue, Bryant University
 - o Honors Student of the Year - Four-Year Institution - Kaitlyn Esposito, Fairleigh Dickinson University
 - o Honors Student of the Year - Two-Year Institution - Amirah Elayan, Bergen Community College
 - o Honors Professional of the Year - Faculty Category - Dr. Tara Parrello, Dominican College
 - o Honors Professional of the Year - Administrator Category - Dr. Elizabeth Gruber, Lock Haven University

Position Statement on Constitutional Amendments and Proposals

Dear Members of NRHC:

The Executive Board of the NRHC has proposed three amendments to the constitution and would like to state its position on an amendment brought forth by a member. These proposals can be found on our [website](#) and were circulated to the membership on February 4, 2020.

The executive board fully supports and encourages the membership to vote in favor of the following proposals via electronic ballot after the conclusion of the 2020 Regional Business Meeting:

1. The first amendment is to increase institutional dues to \$200 per member institution. The increase in annual dues will allow us to maintain a standard members have come to expect at conferences as well as continue to offer scholarships and reimbursements to member institutions. Dues were last increased from \$50 to \$100 in 2013. The new dues fee would be steady for at least five years.
2. The second amendment proposes changes to the “Newsletter Editor/Webmaster” position, updating the title to “Web Coordinator” and extending the term from two years to three years. These changes better reflect the duties of this board position and ensure continuity on the executive board. If this proposal is passed, the current person in this position would continue for a third year.
3. The final amendment is in regard to the position of Immediate Past President. Although the NRHC Executive Board has traditionally included the office of Immediate Past President, that

is not specifically stated in the Constitution. This proposed amendment seeks to officially add the position to the Board.

The Executive Board urges the membership to vote in favor of these amendments to help ensure financial stability and leadership stability for NRHC.

The board wishes to express its disagreement with the member proposal from Ross Wheeler of Queens College.

This proposal states that any new expenditure the board wishes to engage be met with approval from the membership. Expenditures less than \$500 would require discussion at one business meeting and then an in-person vote at the following business meeting. Expenditures over \$500 would require discussion at two consecutive businesses meetings and a formal vote by direct ballot.

These measures would stunt the board's ability to make decisions that ultimately would benefit the region, rendering the duly elected board unable to do business for the Region.

Mr. Wheeler's proposal is a response to implementing executive board stipends as of 2019. He writes in his proposal, "The issue of practices of the NRHC executive committee was raised when the board determined to provide stipends to officers for their participation on the board without introducing the issue of stipends for discussion with the members."

The executive board regrets not engaging the membership in a conversation before enacting the policy. This was certainly an error on our part. However, the action was not unconstitutional. In hindsight, seeking membership approval would have been a more favorable pathway. And perhaps a specific proposal to the Constitution of NRHC to discuss and vote by direct ballot on future changes to executive board stipends would be wise.

Outside of executive board stipends, this amendment would ultimately overturn the existing bylaw in Article VI, Section 3 that states: "The Executive Board shall formulate policies and projects, shall review and approve expenditures in excess of \$1000, shall act upon requests from member institutions for financial support. The Executive Board shall act in a manner that fulfills the obligations, purposes, and goals of the Region." Most of the spending the NRHC board approves is for conference related initiatives and scholarships/reimbursements to members. While the board could continue to green-light existing conference-related expenses, the board's ability to innovate and help the region progress would be handcuffed. To illustrate this, we present the following examples:

- In 2019, to save thousands of dollars in A/V costs, we opted to purchase our own projectors. We spent \$6,482 on equipment. The initial quote from the hotel was \$23,897.33. After purchasing the equipment and asking the hotel for an updated quote, we spent \$6866.83 for A/V. By purchasing the projectors and cables and paying the Hyatt, we spent a total of \$14,098.83—saving the region almost \$9,800. This decision will serve as an ongoing savings as well.

- This year, the board opted to spend \$2,299 to provide an app to attendees. While the conference did not occur, we are working with the vendor to carry over the cost to next calendar year. The use of the app could potentially replace a print program, saving roughly \$3,000 in annual printing costs and serving as an environmentally friendly option.
- A third and final example is adjustments to the minority scholarship. Now renamed the Conference Minority Scholarship, NRHC budgeted to provide 20 complimentary registrations and a \$50 cash award to selected candidates. The implementation of a cash award is a change that had been discussed in years past but tabled.

Through the lens of the new proposal, implementing any of these changes would take at least 12-18 months. This is not a responsible or effective way for the board to conduct the business of the region, especially when all the above examples illustrate how the board works to save when possible and give back directly to institutions and students.

The amendment would ultimately harm the further growth of NRHC. The board also recognizes that some of the recent decisions made have been dramatic—implementing executive board stipends; securing insurance for conference periods and board members to protect the organization; purchasing and installing A/V equipment for 2019 and 2020 to save on costs; taking on the process of negotiating conference site contracts to further direct cost savings to NRHC; to name a few. Change is challenging but as an organization that is poised to be a leader of Regional Honors, it is the board's responsibility to move the organization forward.

Thank you for reading this position statement. We look forward to a productive business meeting.

Executive Treasurer's Report

					Projected	Actual
Conference Statistics:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Albany
Proposals	483	429	381	465	429	429
Accepted	385	358	325	411	404	404
Paid Registrants	602	528	521	564	479	479
Rate of Accepted to Paid Reg.	1.564	1.475	1.603	1.372	1.186	1.186
Acceptance Rate	79.7%	83.4%	85.3%	88.4%	94.7%	94.7%

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
Contracted Room Nights	Cambridge**	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Albany
Rooms (Wed)	4	0	2	2	2	0
Rooms (Thurs)	187	148	158	200	200	0
Rooms (Fri)	212	160	180	225	225	0
Rooms (Sat)	187	152	165	200	200	0
Sub-Total	590	460	505	627	627	0

** Missing Cambridge Contract - projected = actual Pickup.

Addendum - Rooms (Wed)		2	0	0	0	0
Addendum - Rooms (Thurs)		58	48	23	0	0
Addendum - Rooms (Fri)		73	53	32	0	0
Addendum - Rooms (Sat)		54	41	32	0	0
Sub-Total	-	187	142	87	0	0
Total ROOM NIGHTS	590	647	647	714	627	0
80% Guarantee		518	518	571	502	0
Actual Pickup	590	609	604			
Room Price		\$ 159	\$ 169	\$ 179	\$ 179	\$ -
Hotel Room Revenue	\$ -	\$ 102,873	\$ 109,343	\$ 127,806	\$ 112,233	\$ -

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019 NCHC	2020	***2020***
Bank Balance	Gettysburg	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	New Orleans	Albany	***Albany***
Date	July 1, 2015	July 1, 2016	July 1, 2017	July 1, 2018	July 1, 2019	November 1, 2019	June 1, 2020	June 1, 2020
Balance	\$ 123,747	\$ 125,831	\$ 102,930	\$ 154,936	\$ 169,177	\$ 176,545	\$ 201,646	\$ 146,002

Note: ***2020*** Balance is current balance minus credits for 2021 Rollover.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
Profit/Loss:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Albany
Net Revenue			\$ 127,546	\$ 192,624	\$ 167,635	\$ 16,927
Total Expenses			\$ 107,985	\$ 166,169	\$ 141,718	\$ 61,350
Total Est. Profit/Loss			\$ 19,561	\$ 26,455	\$ 25,917	\$ (44,423)

Note: The Conf. Registration Fee is an Average. Most pay \$295, but late registrations pay more, and we have others that are free.
(Free = Scholarships and 12/24th registrant free.)

Note: Projected Profit is much lower, since our total registrations is approx. 100 below expectations. Recall, many schools stopped registering in late February and early March because of the Coronavirus.

REFUNDS and ROLLOVERS for Albany, 2020 and Albany, 2021.

	2020
Refunds	Albany
# of Schools	31
# of Checks Mailed	38
# of Registrations	175
# of Sponsors	1
Total Refund from Bank Acct	\$48,700

Rollovers		Registrations	Pay by Credit Card	Pay by Check
# of Schools	45		27	18
Total Amount Rolled Over	\$81,383	281		
Total rolled by Credit Card	\$42,357	144		
Total rolled by Check	\$39,026	137		
YES- - CHECK Received	\$13,287	44		
NO - - CHECK Not Received	\$25,739	89		

Actual Money and/or Registrations Rolled over to 2021 is the amount paid by: Credit Card and YES - CHECK Received.

	Money	Registrations
Credit Card	\$42,357	144
YES- - CHECK Received	\$13,287	44
TOTAL Rollover - - ->	\$55,644	188

Amount NOT Rolling Over to 2021 is the amount already refunded and for schools where a check was not received.

	Money	Registrations
Refunded	\$48,700	175
NO - - CHECK Not Received	\$25,739	89
TOTAL Not Rollover - - ->	\$74,439	264

Note: Registrations add to 452, this is missing 11 Scholarship Registrations and 12 Discount Registrations for the 12th and 24th free.
Adding them now gets to 475 - close to 479 actual - error is human error using excel.

Note: Total Rolled Over and Not Rolled Over adds to \$130,083. This does not include Dues that were paid online and by check = \$2,720
Also, does not include the \$20/registration fee for Refunds = \$3,500.
Adding \$130,083 + \$2,720 + \$3,500 = \$136,303. Close to the actual from YesEvents of \$138,482 - error is human error using excel.

Approximate Bank Balance as of 6/1/2020 = Current Balance - Total Rollover of Actual Money Received

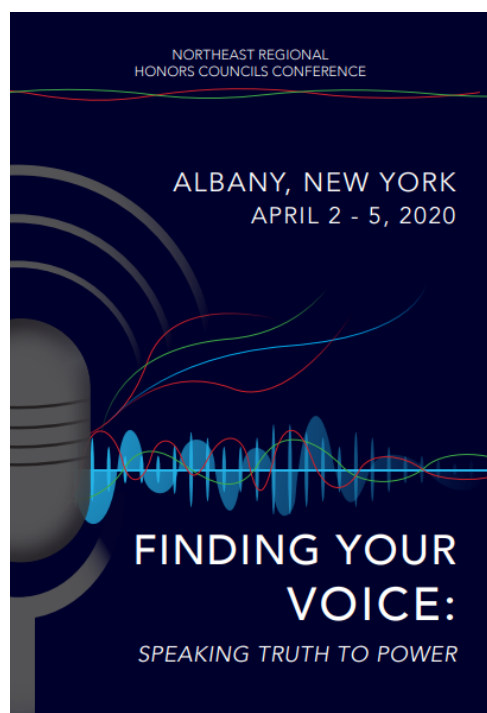
Balance as of 6/1/2020	\$ 201,646
Subtract Rollover	
TOTAL Rollover - - ->	\$ 55,644
Approx Bank Balance - - ->	\$ 146,002

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
Revenue:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Albany
Conf. Registration Fee	\$ 225	\$ 225	\$ 230	\$ 295	\$ 295	Avg. = 282.6
Paid Registrants	602	528	521	564	479	479
Exp. Revenue	\$ 135,450	\$ 118,800	\$ 119,830	\$ 166,380	\$ 141,305	\$ 135,365
Reported Revenue			\$ 116,610			
Other Revenue:	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Albany
\$20/Registration fee (175 refunded registrations)				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500
Tri-fold's				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 186
Programs				\$ -	\$ -	\$ 201
Hotel F&B Rebate				\$ -	\$ 12,540	\$ -
Programs (Salisbury Univ)				\$ 2,088	\$ -	\$ -
Transit Passes				\$ 760	\$ -	\$ -
Misc. Income				\$ 5,045	\$ -	\$ -
Uncashed Checks (2017)				\$ 6,850	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Monroe College				\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - NCHC				\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Sponsor - Point Park Univ.				\$ 100	\$ 250.00	\$ -
Sponsor - Towson University				\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Millersville University				\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - SOC				\$ 1,000	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Sponsor - Ramapo College				\$ 250	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Sponsor - St. Francis Univ.				\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Sponsor - Fund for Am. Studies				\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Sponsor - Nat'l Society for Leader				\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Sponsor - PebblePad				\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Catholic University				\$ 250	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - NSCS				\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -
Sponsor - Alpha Lambda Delta				\$ 100	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Sponsorship - Total - - >			\$ 2,500	\$ 4,700	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,000
Membership Dues			\$ 8,436	\$ 6,800	\$ 10,040	\$ 10,040
Total Other Revenue			\$ 10,936	\$ 26,244	\$ 26,330	\$ 16,927
Total Conf. Revenue			\$ 116,610	\$ 166,380	\$ 141,305	\$ 135,365
Total Revenue			\$ 127,546	\$ 192,624	\$ 167,635	\$ 152,292
Refunds for 31 Schools					\$ -	\$ 48,700
No Check Received from 12 Schools					\$ -	\$ 25,739
Rollovers held for 2021					\$ -	\$ 55,644
Double Counted Dues subtraction					\$ -	\$ 2,720
Human Error in Excel (MTT)					\$ -	\$ 2,562
Net Revenue					\$ 167,635	\$ 16,927

					Projected	Actual
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020
EXPENSES:	Cambridge	Pittsburgh	Providence	Baltimore	Albany	Albany
** Hotel (Food & Beverage ++)			\$ 66,961	\$ 70,501	\$ 55,350	\$ -
** Hotel (A/V)			\$ 10,105	\$ 6,585	\$ 6,425	\$ -
Interpreters			\$ 5,375	\$ 4,181	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Scholarships (PIP)			\$ 800	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Purchase: A/V Projectors and Cables			\$ -	\$ 6,482	\$ -	\$ -
Purchase: 5 Acer Chromebooks and Misc. Cables			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,234	\$ 1,234
Website Related			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 740	\$ 740
NRHC Journal - Illuminate			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,142	\$ 1,142
Programs			\$ 2,088	\$ 2,956	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Ribbons			\$ -	\$ 147	\$ 150	\$ -
Awards			\$ -	\$ 452	\$ 450	\$ -
T-shirts and Lanyards			\$ 2,990	\$ 4,231	\$ 4,000	\$ 373
Yes Events Registration (not incl. folders)			\$ 9,167	\$ 10,869	\$ 10,156	\$ 9,000
Yes Events Folders			\$ -	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ -
Yes Events Credit Card Fees			\$ 3,370	\$ 4,954	\$ 4,007	\$ 4,007
Misc Meeting Food/Travel Exp			\$ -	\$ 1,768	\$ 1,509	\$ 1,509
Misc. Conference Expense - Summer Meeting			\$ 1,147	\$ 1,299	\$ 1,145	\$ 1,145
NH State Registration			\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -
DJ and Photo Booth			\$ 963	\$ 830	\$ 1,000	\$ 200
Maryland Transit Passes			\$ -	\$ 1,140	\$ -	\$ -
Keynote Speaker books			\$ -	\$ 746	\$ -	\$ -
Keynote Speaker Honorarium			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,000	\$ -
NRHC Taxes (2 Gift Cards for Acct. Profs)			\$ -	\$ 212	\$ 300	\$ 300
Insurance: Officers and Directors Insurance			\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Insurance: Special Event Insurance for the Hotel			\$ -	\$ 410	\$ 410	\$ -
Stipends - Executive Board			\$ 1,019	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,000
Stipends - Executive Board - Faculty Representatives			\$ 1,800	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Stipends - Executive Board - Student Representatives			\$ 1,200	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Stipend - Conf. Asst.			\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total Expenses:			\$ 107,985	\$ 166,169	\$ 141,718	\$ 61,350

Note: 2019 Expenses increased, because some charges/bills/CC fees/etc. posted after the April 2019 Conference, and prior to FY 2019 ending June 30, 2019.

Albany 2020 Conference Report



“Finding Your Voice: Speaking Truth to Power”

2020 marks the centennial of the United States signing women’s suffrage into law with the 19th amendment. 2020’s theme challenged the Honors students of the Northeast Region to find their distinctive voices and to speak truth to power as well as to inspire others to find their voices, to empower the voices who seek to make the world a better place and to advocate for the voices of the unheard.

Winning cover art submitted by Dárika Lara-Rodríguez of Monmouth University

Conference Proposals

Total Submissions: 429

Total Acceptances: 405 (94%)

Community College Acceptances: 36

4-Year College Acceptances: 369

Note: All presenters who were accepted to the 2020 conference may present at the 2021 conference if submitting the same proposal; new conference proposals will be evaluated separately.

Key Conference Features:

- Opening Presentation by Gallaudet Students
- Student Ice-Cream Social
- Big Picture Discussion: Diversity in Honors
- City As Text Speaker: Andor Skotnes, Professor of History and Society at Russell Sage College
- City As Text Strands (9 strands exploring Albany, New York)
 - Voices for Freedom
 - Immigrant Experience

- Women's Voices
- Religious Voices
- The Power of Patriotism
- Early Voices
- Environment and the Urban Landscape – service learning activity
- Truth in Agriculture
- Unscrambling Albany's Monuments – geocaching activity
- Keynote Speaker: Shirley Ann Jackson, American physicist and President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Conference at a Glance

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Conference Registration: 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm (West Gallery)

Opening Presentation by Gallaudet: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Governor Ballroom)

Ice-Cream Social (Students Only): 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Kelsey's)

Please note: cost of ice-cream included in conference registration

Big Picture Discussion (Faculty/Staff Only): 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Empire AB)

Please note: cost of refreshments included in conference registration

Friday, April 3, 2020

Conference Registration: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (West Gallery)

CAT Introduction: 8:45 am – 10:15 am (Governor Ballroom)

CAT Strand Exploration: 10:15 am – 3:00 pm (City of Albany)

CAT Debrief: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Governor Ballroom)

Business Meeting: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Empire AB)

Graduate Fair Expo and Network: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (West Gallery)

Art Exhibition: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm (East Gallery)

Banquet and Keynote Address: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm (doors open at 7:15 pm) (Governor Ballroom)

Please note: cost of dinner included in conference registration

Open Mic Night (Students Only): 9:30 pm – Midnight (Kelsey's)

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Conference Registration: 7:30 am – 5:00 pm (West Gallery)

Breakfast: 7:30 am – 9:00 am (East Gallery)

Please note: cost of breakfast included in conference registration

Poster Session 1 and Idea Exchange: 7:30 am – 9:00 am (Governor Ballroom)

Panel Session 1: 9:05 am – 10:20 am (Various Locations)

Panel Session 2: 10:35 am – 11:50 am (Various Locations)

Lunch and President's Address: 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm (Governor Ballroom)

Please note: cost of lunch included in conference registration

Student's Caucus (Students Only): 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm (Governor Ballroom)

Consultant's Corner (Faculty/Staff Only): 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm (Empire AB)

Panel Session 3: 2:50 pm – 4:05 pm (Various Locations)

Panel Session 4: 4:20 pm – 5:35 pm (Various Locations)

Student Gala (Students Only): 8:30 pm – Midnight (Governor Ballroom)

Please note: cost of refreshments included in conference registration

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Breakfast: 8:30 am – 10:00 am (East Gallery)

Please note: cost of breakfast included in conference registration

Poster Session 2: 8:30 am – 10:00 am (Governor Ballroom)

Award's Ceremony and Closing Remarks: 10:00 am – 10:30 am (Governor Ballroom)

Addressing COVID-19

- It became clear in early March that the Executive Board would need to prepare for the possibility of cancelling the annual conference.
- We began receiving inquiries from member institutions on Friday, March 6.

- The board called upon several lawyers, many of whom were friends/family of board to see if there was a legal way to break the contract without losing money. At this point, we would have had to pay the Hilton Albany \$144,693.
- On Saturday, March 7, Andrew Cuomo declared a State of Emergency in New York State.
- On Monday, March 9, the Hilton sent us their cleaning and sanitization guidelines.
- The board began contemplating other scenarios, including rescheduling the conference for late summer or early fall.
- In a call with the Hilton on March 10, we were told that we had a contractual obligation to host the conference but the Hilton would be willing to move the event for us. The Hilton did not provide dates that would be good for our membership in 2020. Therefore, we requested to be moved to 2021.
- As of Thursday, March 12, Cuomo banned gathering of 500 people or more indefinitely. That was the point when the Board confirmed that we could invoke force majeure and not be held financially responsible for the contract. The same date, another call was placed to Hilton where we told them that we would need to move to 2021 or we would walk away from the contract entirely due to the governor's directive.
- On Friday, March 13, the Hilton agreed to move us to 2021. That day, the Hilton also cancelled all hotel reservations. We emailed the membership with the news late in the day.
- From that point, we went through several versions for a new contract. As the pandemic progressed, we realized that our original room block of 625 and F&B minimum of \$45,000 might not be realistic. While the Hilton was going to roll over our contract to 2021, we felt we would be unable to guarantee attrition and attendance. At that point, we told the Hilton we were walking away entirely.
- The Hilton asked us to come back to the negotiating table and on April 16, we agreed to lower the room block to 400 rooms and the F&B to \$30,000. We also are allowed to cancel, for any reason and without any liability, up to January 15, 2021. We believe this will give us enough time to determine if we are able to hold an in-person conference in 2021.
- The process of getting to this point was challenging and arduous. There was a significant amount of confusion and lack of preparedness from the Hilton. However, the board took the rapidly developing situation piece by piece and ultimately ended up with the ability to keep NRHC in existence beyond 2021. We will work with the Hilton should we need to expand the room block/F&B in the event that we do hold an in-person conference.

Student Representatives' Report

We would like to thank the members of the 2020 Student Activities Committee:

- Chloe Adiutori, Gannon University
- Oluwadamilola Ameobi, Alcorn State University
- Xarielle Blanchette, Monroe College
- Hailey Burton, Gallaudet University
- Rhianna Davis, Point Park University
- Samantha Graves, Community College of Allegheny County
- Matthew Green, Frederick Community College
- Mina Gul, SUNY Albany
- AnnaMaria Leal, St. Francis College
- Grant Mooney, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Ronnae Rahming, Monroe College
- Simran Sood, SUNY Old Westbury
- Matthew Wikfors, Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Kelsey Wolfe, Point Park University

The Northeast Regional Honors Council offers several honors leadership opportunities on the regional level. Some of these opportunities include:

Student Representative

Annual positions as student representatives for the NRHC conference are filled by two students. They are in charge of planning the student events for the conference by working with each other and with the entire NRHC Executive Board, ensuring that students will connect and socialize at these events. The Student Reps also help to generate and post content for the NRHC social media channels. Student Reps travel to the annual summer planning meeting, as well as the national conference, in addition to serving at the regional conference. See NRHC Elections page for information on how to nominate a student for this position.

Student Activities Committee

Honors students in the northeast region can actively be part of the conference planning process by joining the NRHC Student Activities Committee. They create event flyers, promote the NRHC conference on their home campuses, and support the student representatives in the preparation and execution of the events.

Illuminate

Students and honors faculty/staff are invited to serve as editors on the newly founded NRHC Journal. The one-year term includes selecting submissions for publication, marketing the journal in the northeast, working with team members and the NHRC executive board, among others. Students and honors faculty/staff do not need to have an editing background; however, participants should have a keen interest in the editing and publishing processes to create a successful and well-established academic journal.

Student-of-the-Year Awards

The NRHC Student-of-the-Year Awards are presented to students who have made significant impacts on their honors programs. The award recognizes outstanding leadership skills, socially-engaged commitments, and innovations that the students have shown at their home institutions. Two winners will be selected by an NRHC committee: one from a 2-year institution, and one from a 4-year institution.

Faculty Representatives' Report

Minority Scholarships

Students of member institutions were eligible to apply for the NRHC Minority Scholarships. The scholarship covered the cost of registration for the conference in addition to a \$50 check given directly to the student to cover other conference-related expenses. Twenty scholarships were available.

For the 2020 conference, students had to complete an application, which included a 350-500 word essay describing their educational and career goals and how attending the NRHC conference would support those goals. In addition, Directors/Deans were required to submit an attestation form confirming eligibility of the student. Sixteen complete applications were received and all were awarded the scholarship. Students who received scholarships for the 2020 conference can apply the scholarship toward the 2021 conference.

Partners in the Park Scholarships

The NRHC allotted up to \$3000 toward Partners in the Park (PitP) Scholarships, which students could use to cover tuition or registration fees. The maximum scholarship per student was \$600. To apply for the scholarship, students were required to complete an application form, which included a 500-word essay detailing student expectations and goals. The Dean/Director was required to submit 50 to 200-word statement of support for the student. As of the writing of this document, no one had applied for this scholarship. Note: Due to COVID-19, NCHC cancelled all 2020 spring and summer PitP experiences.

NRHC 2020 Conference Consultant's Corner

The topics selected for the NRHC 2020 conference Consultant's Corner included:

- Budgeting and the Annual Report – Making the Connection
- Supporting Honors Projects from Inception to Completion
- The Nuts and Bolts of Service Learning
- Honors Courses – What Makes it Honors?
- Beginning in Honors – Tips and Traps

Although the 2020 conference had to be cancelled, the NRHC Board extends appreciation to those members who volunteered to share their expertise as facilitators of the topic roundtables: Vanessa Dianna, Helen Fallon, Darryl Peterkin, Elaine Torda, AnnMarie Dellipizzi, and Linda Kobylarz.

Amendments to Constitution

February 3, 2020 marked 60 calendar days to the next NRHC Regional Business Meeting. Therefore, the NRHC Executive Board is circulating existing and revised proposals to the membership for its consideration.

The first three proposals have been approved by the membership and will be voted on via electronic ballot after the 2020 Spring Regional Business Meeting. The fourth proposal (which is on page 28) is a revision following the 2019 regional business meeting in New Orleans; this proposal will be further discussed in Albany. The earliest point at which the fourth proposal can be voted upon is after the 2020 Fall Virtual Business Meeting.

Proposal #1: Dues Increase

The NRHC Constitution charges the NRHC Executive Board with formulating policies and taking actions that fulfill the obligations, purposes, and goals of the Region. After careful consideration and extensive review of NRHC's current finances and future goals, the Board is recommending a change in dues. The Board seeks to ensure that NRHC has a sound financial foundation and can provide additional services and resources to members in the future. The NRHC Executive Board proposes that the NRHC institutional dues be \$200 per year effective July 1, 2020. Dues for affiliated individuals, unaffiliated individuals, and students shall be adjusted according to the guidelines in the NRHC Constitution. Discussion of the proposed dues change will be on the agenda of the NRHC Business meeting to be held on November 8, 2019 at the NCHC conference. Of course, all members are welcome to send comments to the Board prior to the meeting. The entire membership will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed dues change electronically.

Please note: Discussion on this proposal has concluded. The proposal in its current form is now eligible for voting. This vote will take place via electronic ballot after the 2020 Regional Business Meeting. This will allow as many members as possible to vote because most institutions pay their dues with conference registration.

Proposal #2: Constitutional Amendment to WebMaster Executive Board Position

The membership will vote on several changes to the position of "WebMaster." The position of WebMaster would be renamed "Web Coordinator," and the tenure of the position would be extended from two years to three years. This name change would be made in all official documents where the position is mentioned, including the Constitution and By-laws. Should this change be put into effect, the current Web Coordinator's term will be extended from two years to three. This term would equal that of the Executive Secretary and Executive Treasurer and would ensure continuity within the position. The newsletter duties would be removed from the position, as the council has opted for an ongoing news and events section of the website. They will be replaced with the Call for Proposals and Conference Registration processes.

Current Wording in the Constitution:

ARTICLE V. Newsletter Editor/Webmaster - The Editor of the Northeast Regional Newsletter/Webmaster shall be elected to a two-year term by a vote of the membership of the Region. In the event of a resignation during the term of office the Executive Board is empowered to appoint someone until the next annual election. The Editor/Webmaster is expected to have a working knowledge of web design/publishing and social media. The Editor/Webmaster is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Council's website and web-based newsletter. Constitution Required Revisions 04/04/2011

Proposed Amended Wording to the Constitution:

ARTICLE V. Web Coordinator - **The Web Coordinator shall be elected to a three-year term** by a vote of the membership of the Region. In the event of a resignation during the term of office, the Executive Board is empowered to appoint someone until the next annual election. **The Web Coordinator is expected to have a facility learning new technologies and a working knowledge of web design and logistics. The Web Coordinator is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Council's website, the Call for Proposals, and the Conference Registration process.**

Please note: Discussion on this proposal has concluded. The proposal in its current form is now eligible for voting. This vote will take place via electronic ballot after the 2020 Regional Business Meeting. This will allow as many members as possible to vote because most institutions pay their dues with conference registration.

Proposal #3: Constitutional Amendment – Addition of Office of Immediate Past President to the NRHC Executive Board

Although the NRHC Executive Board has traditionally included the office of Immediate Past President, that is not specifically stated in the Constitution. This proposed amendment seeks to officially add the position to the Board. Discussion of the proposed change will be on the agenda of the NRHC Business meeting to be held on November 8, 2019 at the NCHC conference. Members are welcome to send comments to the Board prior to the meeting. The entire membership will have the opportunity to vote electronically on the proposed amendment.

Current Wording in the Constitution:

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Their Duties

The officers shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice President, an Executive Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary. The President, the President-Elect, and the Vice-President, may not be elected to a second consecutive term of office.

Constitution Required Revisions 04/11/2015

Section 1. The President shall be the immediate past President-Elect and shall hold office for one year until a successor is installed. The President shall preside at meetings of the Region, appoint committees, propose policies and projects which fulfill the obligations and purposes of the Region, and preside over the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Vice President shall be elected for a one-year term and shall be a member of the faculty or administration of any member institution in the Region. The Vice President shall succeed automatically to the office of President-Elect upon the election and installation of the new Vice President. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect should that office become vacant.

Constitution Required Revisions 10/20/2000

Constitution Required Revisions 10/28/2005

Section 3. The Executive Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Treasurer may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Secretary, the Executive Treasurer shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Executive Treasurer shall collect and manage all Regional funds, and may sign contractual obligations on behalf of the Region or may designate another officer or standing committee chair to do so. The Executive Treasurer may approve fiscal and contractual obligations of less than \$501. Fiscal and contractual obligations greater than \$500 but less than \$1001 require approval of the Executive Treasurer and the President or the President's designee. Fiscal and contractual obligations of over \$1000 require the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Secretary may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Treasurer, the Executive Secretary shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Proposed Amended Wording to the Constitution:

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Their Duties

The officers shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice President, **an Immediate Past President**, an Executive Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary. The President, the President-Elect, and the Vice-President, may not be elected to a second consecutive term of office.

Constitution Required Revisions 04/11/2015

Section 1. The President shall be the immediate past President-Elect and shall hold office for one year until a successor is installed. The President shall preside at meetings of the Region, appoint committees, propose policies and projects which fulfill the obligations and purposes of the Region, and preside over the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Vice President shall be elected for a one-year term and shall be a member of the faculty or administration of any member institution in the Region. The Vice President shall succeed automatically to the office of President-Elect upon the election and installation of the new Vice President. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect should that office become vacant.

Constitution Required Revisions 10/20/2000

Constitution Required Revisions 10/28/2005

Section 3. The Executive Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Treasurer may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Secretary, the Executive Treasurer shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Executive Treasurer shall collect and manage all Regional funds, and may sign contractual obligations on behalf of the Region or may designate another officer or standing committee chair to do so. The Executive Treasurer may approve fiscal and contractual obligations of less than \$501. Fiscal and contractual obligations greater than \$500 but less than \$1001 require approval of the Executive Treasurer and the President or the President's designee. Fiscal and contractual obligations of over \$1000 require the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Secretary may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Treasurer, the Executive Secretary shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Section 5. The Immediate Past President shall be the past President and shall hold office for one year or until a successor is installed. The Immediate Past President shall serve on committees, assist with the planning of the annual NRHC conference, and oversee special projects as determined by the Board.

Please note: Discussion on this proposal has concluded. The proposal in its current form is now eligible for voting. This vote will take place via electronic ballot after the 2020 Regional Business Meeting. This will allow as many members as possible to vote because most institutions pay their dues with conference registration.

Strategic Plan

We are still in the process of developing a first draft of a strategic plan for the membership to review.

We would like to thank the following members for working on the committee thus far:

- Lynne Andreozzi-Fontaine, Community College of Rhode Island
- Chris Brittain, Ramapo College
- Susan Dinan, Adelphi University
- Karen Kortz, Community College of Rhode Island
- Kathryn MacDonald, Monroe College
- Darryl Peterkin, Morgan State University

Anyone interested in serving on this committee can contact Kathryn MacDonald (kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu).

Illuminate



There are two ways for students to be featured in *Illuminate*.

For 2020 Conference Presenters:

You can opt to submit your presentation to the 2020 conference page on the *Illuminate* website. The first round of presentations is now available on the website. There is a link for interested students to submit their work on the site's homepage: www.illuminatenrhc.com.

We would appreciate 2020 conference submissions ASAP, but no later than **Friday, June 19**.

Please note, as part of this form, you also have the ability to indicate if you want your work to be considered for the 2020 edition of the journal. Therefore, you would not need to submit twice.

For 2020 Illuminate Proposals:

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the disappointing end to the academic year, the *Illuminate* Editorial Board is extending the submission deadline to **Friday, June 19**.

Given that students were unable to make their presentations at the 2020 conference, we encourage students to submit the paper that inspired their presentation for consideration. Additionally, all of the amazing Art Gallery presenters should consider submitting photographs of their artwork to the journal. All of the submission guidelines can be found on the *Illuminate* website.

The form to make submissions can be found on the "Submit Your Work" page of the *Illuminate* website. Please read submission instructions carefully; the review of submissions is a double-blind process.

We are seeking more involvement to review submissions, so please let us know if you'd like to be involved. As we complete the guidelines, more information will be communicated through the NRHC mailing list.

Chaired by Kathryn MacDonald (kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu)

Updated Member Proposal

Constitutional Amendment – Governance Procedures

The following proposal is submitted by Dr. Ross Wheeler of Queens College. The text in red highlights the revised language.

Dear NRHC Members,

The constitution of the NRHC does a good job of establishing the duties of the officers, but has very little in it about codifying operating practices.

The issue of practices of the NRHC executive committee was raised when the board determined to provide stipends to officers for their participation on the board without introducing the issue of stipends for discussion with the members.

As I mentioned at the New Orleans business meeting, this practice seems to go against the basic idea of shared governance of the region – the partnership of the executive committee and the membership.

Therefore, because there is an absence of articles about organizational practice in the current NRHC constitution, I am proposing the following amendment to help codify NRHC practices.

The language of the amendment is intended to ensure that the idea of shared governance of the region by the membership is the practice.

Proposed language for the constitutional amendment:

No changes in operating procedures or practices, especially those that entail funding from the treasury, shall be made without consultation with the region's membership. The following rules shall be followed when proposing changes:

- a) Changes in expenditures that entail amounts totaling less than \$500 can be introduced as New Business in one business meeting and voted on by the attending members in the following business meeting.
- b) Changes in expenditures that entail amounts totaling more than \$500 shall be introduced in two consecutive business meetings and voted on, by ballot, by the membership.

I am including here also the language that was introduced in New Orleans. The discussion at the New Orleans business meeting, made clear to me that this language was too restrictive. I have thus revised the proposal to that presented above.

Ross Wheeler
Director of Macaulay Honors College at Queens

Dear Executive Committee of the NRHC,

I am writing with a proposed amendment to the NRHC Constitution. The amendment is proposed in part to address concerns raised in the NRHC business meeting in Baltimore.

The concern, specifically, is the board's change in the practice of bringing changes to the NRHC fiscal policy to the membership for discussion and vote prior to enactment.

The amendment attempts to codify the importance of the shared governance that has existed between the NRHC executive board and the region's membership.

The constitution of the NRHC stipulates that: "Any member of the Region may propose amendments to this Constitution. All amendments must be proposed in writing and submitted to the Executive Secretary for consideration by the Executive Board at its next ordinary or extraordinary meeting. Prior to a vote the Executive Board shall apprise the membership of its evaluation of any proposed amendments. Proposed amendments do not require approval by the Executive Board in order to come before the membership.

"Proposed amendments may be distributed in writing at the business meeting prior to the business meeting during which a vote is taken. Whether shared at such a business meeting or not, proposed amendments must be distributed via regular mail or e-mail, the means to be determined by the Executive Board, at least 60 days in advance of a scheduled business meeting. Along with the results of the vote, discussion of the proposed amendment prior to the vote, including the Executive Board's evaluation, will be recorded in the minutes."

I am thus exercising my ability as a member to propose the following amendment: "All NRHC financial policies involving expenses from the treasury that provide remuneration in the form of payments or reimbursements to the executive board, must be discussed in two consecutive business meetings, and approved through direct ballot by the NRHC membership, prior to the policy's enactment."

As noted above, the constitution stipulates that this amendment be distributed to the region for discussion at the next business meeting. This should be the meeting at New Orleans.

The amendment would then be distributed to the region sixty days in advance of the spring meeting; it should thus be voted on during the spring meeting at Albany.

Thank you,

Ross Wheeler

Please note: Discussion on this proposal will continue at the spring virtual business meeting. If the current proposed language is accepted, this proposal would be eligible to be voted upon after the 2020 Fall Regional Business Meeting.

Spring 2020 NRHC Board Elections

Join the NRHC Board! Nominations and Elections!

Please do consider running for a position, and/or encourage your students to run. This work is extremely meaningful insofar as it directly benefits honors students in the region by providing them with professional, academic and experiential opportunities. Further, for those of you needing external service for tenure and promotion purposes, please consider that Executive Board service is a gratifying and meaningful way to boost your CV.



If you are (or if your student is) interested in running for one of the following Executive Board positions, please send me the required candidacy information, which includes a candidate's statement and a headshot by Close of Business on Friday, June 12.

Student candidates must secure a letter from their directors affirming program/institutional commitment to support travel expenses to attend the three meetings of the executive board (July site planning meeting, fall business meeting during the NCHC conference, and the Albany conference). This letter must be included with the candidate's statement and headshot. Please note that NRHC will provide a \$1000 stipend to each student representative; these funds can offset the cost to travel throughout the term.

Elected candidates are strongly encouraged to attend the summer planning meeting (date TBD), Elected candidates are also expected to attend the upcoming NCHC conference and attendance at the NRHC conference is required. Each executive member receives a stipend.

Note: If you wish to nominate someone else, please secure that person's agreement to run before submitting his/her name to me at this email address.

The following positions are up this election period:

Vice President (1 open position): Elected for a one-year term and shall be a member of the faculty or administration of any member institution in the Region. The Vice President shall succeed automatically to the office of President-Elect upon the election and installation of the new Vice President. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect should that office become vacant. The president-elect co-chairs the organizing of the annual regional conference; the service of vice-president, president-elect, president, and immediate past president is a four-year commitment to the region.

Faculty Board Representative (1 open position): Elected to a two-year term by a vote of the membership of the Region. Faculty Board Representatives may serve no more than one consecutive term.

Student Board Representatives (2 open positions): Elected to a one-year term by a vote of the membership of the Region. Student Board Representatives may be elected to additional one-year term. The two student representatives plan three key student socials (Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings) of the conference, advertise to students, advise students on what to expect, maintain the region's Facebook page with text and photos, and may coordinate with local student volunteers to help with City-as-Text, the registration table, and other tasks as needed.

You can find the NRHC Constitution and By-Laws [here](#).

Planning for 2021 Conference

#NRHC2021

Looking ahead, NRHC is heading to Albany, New York next year!

Here are the details you should know:

Thursday, April 8 to Sunday, April 11

Hilton Albany

40 Lodge Street

Albany, NY 12207

Hotel Block

We have initially contracted for 400 rooms and the rate will be \$179 per night, single to quad.

Conference Registration

Registration per person will remain at \$295.00.

Call for Local Hosts

- We are looking for area schools to serve as local hosts. Local hosts typically engage in the following conference planning activities:
 - Make recommendations for speakers (City as Text and Keynote Banquet) P
 - Plan City as Text strands (create suggestions for self-guided tours of the area; prepare materials for advanced reading if necessary, etc.)
 - Coordinate with local travel bureau for maps, information on city, etc.
 - Assist with the receipt and storage of supplies for the conference as it approaches
 - Volunteer at the conference at various events and conference registration
 - If you are interested in serving as a local host, please contact Chris Brittain (cbrittainnrhc@gmail.com) and Irina Ellison (rellison@mercy.edu)

Conference Details

As planning for NRHC 2021 is well underway, we are excited for our region to reconvene and hopeful that the next conference will be bigger and better than ever. As we plan for an in-person conference, we are aware that forces beyond our control may once again make that an impossibility.

For that reason, we will have several contingencies in place should the conference need to be moved to a virtual format.

While we are thankful that much of the work to plan the 2021 was completed, there is still much to do and much to look forward to. We will be creating various sub-committees to monitor the situation with Covid-19 to ensure that every aspect of the conference is designed to be as safe as possible and in line with CDC guidelines. That being said, we are dedicated to ensuring that the spirit and celebration of scholarship, exploration, research, and learning that NRHC is known for will be ever-present.

The uncertainty will require us to compress our usual timeline so that most aspects of planning, including the distribution of the theme, the call for proposals, the review process, and registration will all need to take place prior to the end of the calendar year. Our agreement with the Albany Hilton gives us the ability to walk away from our contract penalty-free up until January 15th. We will require concrete registration numbers prior to this date in order to make that determination.

Timeline

Call for Proposals:

- Monday, August 17th - Call for proposals will open.
- Monday, October 5th – Deadline to submit proposals.
- Friday, October 23rd - Decisions to be sent out.

Registration:

- Monday, November 2nd – Early bird registrations opens.
- Monday – November 30th – Early bird registration ends.
- Monday, December 14th – Regular registration ends.

In the Event of Virtual Conference:

- Friday, January 15th – Announcement of conference format change, if necessary.
- Monday, January 18th – Registration re-opened for virtual conference.
- Monday, March 1st – Registration deadline for virtual conference.

As the Call for Proposals will be opening earlier than usual, we hope that you will convey to your students that this year's timeline is compressed and that proposals are due much earlier. We will not be extending the deadline for proposal submission.

Re-Submission Policy:

As was noted when we initially postponed NRHC 2020, proposals that have already been accepted to that conference will be automatically accepted to the conference in 2021. All students will still be required to complete the Call for Proposals process in order to officially re-submit prior proposals. Students who re-submit have the option to make small changes to their proposals that may reflect updated research or uniformity with the new theme. Students who wish to submit an entirely different proposal than was previously accepted may do so, but they will not be automatically accepted and will be subject to review.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Albany!



Infrequently Asked Questions: Finding Solutions to Impossible Problems



"How does one eat an elephant?"

In no time at all, every person on the planet has been thrust into crises unlike any before. We are in the midst of cultural, societal, political, and technological change that has accelerated beyond our abilities to make sense of it all. We are only now beginning to fully realize the extent of the many problems facing humanity and our planet. If there is one silver lining, it is that we have been afforded an opportunity to reflect on how we ended up here and to determine a viable path forward. The theme of this conference implores you to ask questions – what are the questions we should be asking if we ever intend to find the most critical and imperative solutions?

We are on the precipice of difficulties from which there may be no turning back: a global pandemic has brought world governments to their knees; an ever-widening wealth disparity has led to growing civil unrest; political and cultural divisiveness has generated a schism between the citizens of our country; centuries of systemic racial discrimination and inexcusable violence have reached a tipping point; climate change is poised to result in untold catastrophic events that will re-shape our physical

and manmade borders and result in our ever-growing global population clamoring for higher ground and basic human necessities. It may seem impossible to confront all of these challenges at once, but we must try.

For more than forty years, the purpose of the Northeast Regional Honors Council conference has been to celebrate the pursuit of honors-level scholarship, learning, and research by undergraduate students as they make their way through higher education. Your generation can no longer view education as a gradual pursuit. Like so many medical school students around the world who have been prematurely enlisted in the fight against Covid-19, it is incumbent upon you to pursue and defend the ideals of education *now*, to mobilize against the growing tribulations that face the planet *now*, and to work harder, smarter, and for less in return *now* than any generation that has preceded you.

Your generation has been handed a corroding world, a set of circumstances that seem impossible to navigate, a series of problems that we are told is too late to fix. It is **not** too late. Your generation has been so frequently discounted, lied to, marginalized, and patronized. When told not to ask questions, you must do just that.

As we once again prepare to meet in Albany, New York to celebrate higher learning and to share research with one another, an urgency bubbles beneath our feet. If there is one thing that we all must agree upon, it is that the solution to the many problems we are facing lies in education and critical thinking. Research must be continued, science must once again be supported and held in high esteem, data must be relied upon whether or not we find the results unpleasant or inconvenient.

Let this conference theme serve as a call to action – what are the problems *you* can help solve? What are the questions *you* should be asking in order to solve them? How can *we* collectively and correctly identify the most pressing matters that face us as a species and unify before it is too late? How can *we* truly learn from history and chart a new course that can lead to positive, tangible solutions?

It is a lot to ask of your generation. As tempting as it may be to give in to cynicism, we must persist in fighting for the future by continually questioning the status quo. We must remain optimistic in the face of the daunting task ahead. We must ask the yet unasked questions if we can ever hope to find the solutions we seek.

“How does one eat an elephant? One bite at a time.”- Unknown

Future Conference Sites

Prior to the emergence of Covid-19, we were in negotiations to host the NRHC 2021 Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thankfully, we had not signed the contract with that site prior to the postponement of the 2020 Conference. We have amended our negotiations to now host the 2022 NRHC Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. We are excited that we were able to move this conference to April 7-10, 2022 for a variety of reasons: Philadelphia is an exciting city with a rich history that is central to our region, and the Philadelphia Sheraton is a stunning hotel central to most Philadelphia landmarks and likely City-as-Text locations.

As we aim to finalize plans for 2022 shortly, we continue to look ahead at possible conference sites for NRHC 2023. Possibilities include Hartford, Connecticut, Niagara Falls, New York, Portland, Maine, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We are always open to ideas and suggestions for future sites.

NRHC Member Involvement

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

On Tuesday, June 9, NRHC issued the following statement:

Statement by the Executive Board of the Northeast Regional Honors Council

On the Murder of George Floyd and Systemic Racism

09 June 2020

The Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) condemns in the strongest possible language the systemic racism and culture of dehumanizing indifference that led to the horrific and unjustifiable murder of George Floyd.

We stand in support of the Floyd family and the many other families of African Americans whose deaths were neither recorded by cameras nor prosecuted in our courts of law.

We stand in support of those who have taken to the streets throughout the nation and are exercising their First Amendment right “to peaceably assemble” and demand that government and law enforcement reform how communities of color are policed.

We abhor the senseless violence and destruction of property by those who seek to use this moment of national reckoning to satisfy their individual interests.

As an organization devoted to the encouragement and support of Honors education and the free and open exchange of ideas, NRHC cherishes the ideals of diversity, civility in public discourse, and civic engagement. We hold in highest esteem our responsibility to prepare the rising generation for roles of creative, conscientious, and sustainable leadership in society.

We also agree with the National Collegiate Honors Council Statement: “Today (and every day) the NCHC supports and values educational equity and non-discriminatory practices. As an organization of institutions, honors educators, students, and staff, it is our responsibility to promote the inclusion and success of academically motivated and high-potential learners from ALL communities, understanding that each of us holds varied, intersectional identities. We stand with all the communities hurting and healing today. We are listening to you, learning from you, and ready to advocate for solutions to build a stronger, more united academy.”

Further, NRHC would like to issue a call to its membership to start a Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This committee will develop a plan of action to increase diversity in NRHC, contribute to NRHC materials dealing with issues of diversity, and work to fulfill the intention of this statement. Any honors administrator, faculty member, staff member or student of an NRHC member institution can volunteer. If interested, please email northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com.

Those programs looking for resources to engage students and faculty in dialogue about systemic racism may find the following list useful:

[Institutionalized Racism: A Syllabus](#)

[A Detailed List of Anti-Racism Resources](#)

[An Antiracist Reading List](#)

[The Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List](#)

[Researching Black Heritage with NYPL's E-Resources](#)

--The Executive Board of the NRHC

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Any interested administrator, faculty member, staff member, or student of an NRHC member institution should email northeastregionalhonorscouncil@gmail.com.

Strategic Plan Subcommittee

The goal of the strategic planning subcommittee will be to identify gaps between NRHC's current state and desired future state, and then develop strategies and goals to close those gaps. The group will be asked to present their progress at the Business Meeting at NCHC in Fall 2019 and present their final strategic plan at the Business Meeting at NRHC in Spring 2020.

Chaired by Kathryn MacDonald (kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu)

Health and Safety Subcommittee

The goal of this committee is to plan for any health and safety concerns at upcoming NRHC conferences. As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to develop and protocols continue to develop, NRHC is seeking anyone with a background in public health and safety to help build our organizational protocols. Please contact Chris Brittain if interested in serving.

Chaired by Chris Brittain (cbrittainnrhc@gmail.com)