The meeting was called to order by Vice Provost Anne Birberick.

Birberick announced that the Baccalaureate Council will meet in Altgeld 203 for the spring semester. There was a conflict with Altgeld 125. She added that there will be a much lighter workload this semester and thanked BC members for their hard work in the fall with all of the curricular changes that came through. Due to the membership changing with a new semester, introductions were made.

I. Adoption of Agenda. Marsh made a motion, seconded by Strid, to APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 9, 2017, BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL MEETING. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the December 8, 2016, and December 15, 2016, Baccalaureate Council meetings were approved electronically.

III. Announcements.
    a. Section C attachment, items previously in Section B, now reported for inclusion in the 2017-18 Undergraduate Catalog. Smith explained that these were previously approved by the BC but needed additional approvals from Pres. Baker or the Board of Trustees.

IV. Consent Agenda. Birberick explained the consent agenda; the BC executive committee reviews and puts non-controversial materials on the consent agenda.
    a. College minutes with no undergraduate curricular items
       i. College of Business #6
       ii. College of Health and Human Sciences #13
    b. College minutes with undergraduate curricular items
       i. College of Education #7, pending BOT approval
    c. Other Items
       i. CIUAE minutes from October 10, 2016
       ii. CIUAE minutes from November 7, 2016
iii. GEC minutes from January 19, 2017
iv. Honors Committee minutes from October 7, 2016

Hunt made a motion, seconded by Truckenbrod, TO APPROVE ALL THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. Johns explained that anything anyone wants to discuss can be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

V. College Minutes for Discussion. There were no college minutes for discussion. Birberick reiterated that in the spring semester, there will be some curricular changes coming to the BC, but it won’t be at the same level as in the fall.

VI. Unfinished Business.

a. STAMP catalog language. Birberick provided background. She explained that this is standards-based measure for proficiency. It was adopted a couple of years through the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and it’s a nationally-accredited test students can take. The university has been offering it for a few years, but there hasn’t been any language in the catalog to address the policy. There also has been confusion on how STAMP aligns with AP credits, so the catalog language before the BC should address this. The catalog language also has to do with the state seal of biliteracy. Birberick reported that a few months ago it became law that two- and four-year institutions need to accept the state seal of biliteracy. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures worked with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and looked at national practices and developed how that proficiency will work and this will be shared with testing, which is the office that receives AP credit scores. Birberick said that students have to make the request for the state seal three years after graduating from high school; this is in the law. Estes made a motion, seconded by Braun, TO APPROVE THE CATALOG LANGUAGE FOR STAMP CREDIT AND BILITERACY AS PRESENTED. Marsh asked about the state seal of biliteracy and what that does for students. Birberick said that B.A. students still have to fulfill the language requirement and this provides a way for some students to do that. For the state seal of biliteracy, there is no test. A student’s high school indicates if the student fulfills the requirement. For a student who is bilingual but hasn’t done the course work, that is what STAMP is for and there are tests for that. The tests are provided in a select number of languages and there are four parts a student needs to pass. It was clarified that NIU can only test for languages there are tests for. Marsh asked why the decision was made to give credit for bilingualism if that’s not acquired through academic studies. It was noted that the STAMP tests are very rigorous and include written language. If a student didn’t have course work in that and are only bilingual in the spoken part of the language, they probably will not pass. Birberick added that NIU wants to make it attractive for bilingual students and to give them credit for their knowledge of another language, but only if they can pass the STAMP test. Kot said that she administers the tests in Polish and Russian and can attest that the tests are very rigorous. Aase asked about setting precedent for awarding credit for non-course work. Birberick replied that students would have to pass a very rigorous test in four areas. The university is trying to say that bilingualism is important. Birberick added that the university awards credit like this for a lot of things, such as AP credit. A brief discussion followed.
regarding other areas that are awarding credit for prior learning. There was also a discussion on the difference between AP credit and the STAMP credit. It was noted that AP credit is awarded for doing course work where the STAMP credit could be awarded if a student is bilingual. It was reiterated that the bilingual student would have to pass a rigorous test first; they would have to have had some formal education in that language. Birberick said that this has been in practice for several years and has been well received by the students who have been involved in it. What the BC is to approve is putting the policy in the catalog. Marsh asked Kot if the students who have taken the tests she has administered had formal instruction in that language. Kot replied that the students who immigrated to the United States later in their lives had formal instruction in the language and did better on the tests than students who came younger and learned English in the states. Kot also said that it is a bilingual test and often the students can’t pass the English portion. Estes added that he knows one of the students who took the test and they weren’t looking to reduce the amount of credits they needed, but rather used it to be able to take some different courses. Motion passed with one opposition.

b. HLC Faculty Credentials. This has been discussed in previous meetings, so no more else is needed.

VII. New Business
a. Human Diversity Requirement from the Center for Black Studies. Birberick explained that NIU passed a Human Diversity graduation requirement (HDR), which goes into effect fall 2017. One way students can fulfill the requirement is by taking a course that has been certified as filling the HDR. So different college curriculum committees have been charged with looking at courses in their colleges and determining whether or not those courses meet the qualifications. For the programs that don’t have a college, the BC serves as that program’s college curriculum committee. One of those programs is the Center for Black Studies. They are submitting three courses for the HDR.
   i. BKST 200. Marsh made a motion, seconded by Johns, TO APPROVE BKST 200 FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT. Aase asked if there was a reason why the Center for Black Studies isn’t associated with a college and Birberick replied she is not sure where the center is at with that. It was confirmed that the Center for Black Studies has always been set up this way, i.e., not being part of a college. Motion passed unanimously.
   ii. BKST 211. Estes made a motion, seconded by Strid, TO APPROVE BKST 211 FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT. Motion passed unanimously.
   iii. BKST 300. Atkins made a motion, seconded by Hunt, TO APPROVE BKST 300 FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT. Truckenbrod noted that with the other two proposals, he saw a grading scale and weighting of assignments, but the syllabus for BKST 300 doesn’t seem to have these. Discussion followed regarding what the BC could do, e.g., vote to deny, table, or approve pending the receipt of additional materials. Strid made a motion, seconded by Truckenbrod, to amend the first motion and APPROVE BKST 300 FOR THE HUMAN DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT PENDING RECEIPT OF A GRADING SCALE AND WEIGHTING OF ASSIGNMENTS. It was noted that they also need to demonstrate that this course has met the 33% requirement for diversity. Motion passed unanimously as amended. A discussion followed regarding what
departments are required to offer for the HDR and it was noted that departments are under no obligation to offer courses for the HDR. However, it will be a graduation requirement starting with fall 2017, so the more courses available for the HDR the better for the students.

Truckenbrod made a motion, seconded by Braun, to ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. by acclamation.

The next meeting of the Baccalaureate Council is March 9, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Smith