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

I. Adoption of Agenda. Johns made a motion, seconded by Marsh, to APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 9, 2017, BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL MEETING. It was noted that the agenda item for the Honors Program is just informational at this time. **Motion passed unanimously.**

II. Approval of Minutes from the February 9, 2017, Baccalaureate Council Meeting. Truckenbrod made a motion, seconded by Estes, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 9, 2017, BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL MEETING. Birberick had some minor corrections. **Motion passed unanimously with corrections.**

III. Announcements.
   a. Section C attachment, items previously in Section B, now reported for inclusion in the 2017-18 Undergraduate Catalog. This is a report of the additional approvals received for catalog changes already approved by the BC.
   b. Birberick talked about the agenda for the April 13 meeting. She anticipates some curricular items. In addition, she would like to use that meeting to have a brief presentation on NIU Plus. There have been some changes and it would be good for BC members to know what is happening with those programs (Academics PLUS, Engage PLUS, and Jobs PLUS). She also said that it would be good to set aside time at that meeting to understand the terminology involved with prior learning. There would be no action item, but it will be helpful to have that discussion so everyone understands the different terminology. Birberick reminded BC members that there is a meeting scheduled for May 4 and to please keep that date on your calendars.

IV. Consent Agenda.
   a. **College minutes with no undergraduate curricular items**
      i. College of Business #7
   b. **College minutes with undergraduate curricular items**
Aase made a motion, seconded by Strid, TO APPROVE THE ITEM ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. Motion passed unanimously.

V. College Minutes for Discussion.
   a. College of Business #8 (page 1). Marsh made a motion, seconded by Waite, TO APPROVE THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULAR ITEMS IN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS #8 (2/7/17). New course, MKTG 280, was discussed. For this course they are limiting admission to only business majors. It will fulfill the Human Diversity Requirement (HDR), so this will be an option for business majors for that requirement. Smith read from an e-mail that provided additional rationale for limiting the course to only business majors and it has to do with limited resources. She also noted that a complete list of courses that fulfill the HDR was provided to BC members so they can see that there are a number of options for non-business majors to choose from. Aase suggested that non-business majors could petition to take the course in the event the section(s) isn’t full. It was suggested that “consent of department” be added to the prerequisite. Marsh revised the motion, seconded by Waite, to add “consent of department.” Motion passed unanimously as amended.

VI. Unfinished Business.
   a. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business
   a. Honors Program Changes. Birberick said the proposal is informational at this time. Gilson is looking for feedback and is also presenting the proposal to other groups around campus. Gilson gave an overview of the proposal, which was a result of Program Prioritization. He noted that several people helped draft the document. Currently the Honors Program is all curricular based, with 27 hours required, 15 in lower division courses and 12 in upper division courses. The current system also isn’t flexible and is hard to complete for many majors. The proposal would combine course work with cocurricular activities and it is based on points. The proposal allows for flexibility based on students’ majors. Gilson reported that this would take effect no earlier than fall of 2018 and any current students would be grandfathered in to the current program. Mitrick said that the report wasn’t always clear and asked for clarification on some of the terminology being used (e.g., honors distinction vs. university honors). Mini sections were defined as honors students enrolling in a regular section of a course, but performing additional course work to obtain honors credit. Johns also stated that the tables in the proposal could be clearer. Waite said that as someone in the Honors Program, this is a great idea; it adds a lot of flexibility. He added that it should attract more students into the program. Birberick said currently there are three levels: lower level, upper level, and
university honors if students complete both lower and upper levels. She noted that the current program is a disadvantage to transfer students. Strid, who serves on the Honors Committee, said that there will be a lot of advantages with the proposed program. There will be multiple ways to get honors with more fulfilling experiences. He added that the committee worked on the wording for the two different levels for the proposed program and would be open to other suggestions. Truckenbrod said that when he first started at NIU he could complete the lower division courses. But then like everyone else he knows in his program, he was phased out due to the lack of upper division courses. He’s in a small program that doesn’t have a lot of faculty. He said it sounds like it will be easier for students in his program to get university honors under the proposed program. Gilson reported the proposal includes examples for earning points and it is not an exhaustive list. Marsh asked if there was anything to force students to spread this out over the course of four years. Gilson replied that they are going to make the cocurricular experiences rigorous enough that students won’t be able to complete them all early. Faculty will be vetting the activities. Truckenbrod suggested that students be required to earn at least one point every semester. Atkins said he likes the four pillars and asked how this proposal would work with departmental honors. There currently is no real integration between departmental and university honors, so maybe there’s an opportunity to have one of the pillars be departmental honors. Gilson said he would reach out to those departments to try to work with them, but he could see that having departmental honors as one of the pillars could work. It was asked if the new program would allow back dating for activities such as prior research. Gilson replied that there will probably be a system for retroactive activities. Birberick summarized the conversation. Overall BC members feel the change to the Honors Program is a good idea. But the charts are confusing. Also, the Honors Program should consider how this might connect with departmental honors and how to balance program requirements across the course of students’ academic careers at NIU (transfer or native students). Birberick said the next steps are to gather more feedback from other university groups that Gilson can take back to the Honors Committee. There will be an action item in the fall because the catalog language will need to be revised.

Marsh made a motion, seconded by Truckenbrod, to ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. by acclamation.

The next meeting of the Baccalaureate Council is April 13, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Smith