
II. Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2017, Baccalaureate Council Meeting. Truckenbrod made a motion, seconded by Braun, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 9, 2017, BACCALAUEATE COUNCIL MEETING. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. Announcements.
   a. Update on NIU PLUS (C. Glover, R. Kersh, E. Klonoski). Birberick said the executive committee thought it would be a good idea to get an update on NIU PLUS. So Glover, Kersh, and Klonoski were invited. Klonoski said that NIU PLUS grew out of the baccalaureate reform which grew out of the need for general education reform. Around 2012 the general education revisioning task force looked to revise more than general education. That task force was renamed the PLUS Task Force, with PLUS meaning Progressive Learning in Undergraduate Studies. Included with a revised general education program were suggestions for a writing infused requirement, documentation for engaged learning, and pathways for completing general education requirements. In the pathways, specific general education courses are offered and organized around a theme. The general education program is now called Academics PLUS within the broader NIU PLUS. In NIU PLUS there are two other programs that allow students to further organize undergraduate activities such as engaged learning and professional/career development. The timeline was discussed. Birberick noted that putting a program like PLUS in place can be a lengthy process. There is the curricular part that needs to go through the regular process and the new general education program including the pathways is now in the catalog. Once it appeared in the catalog, then marketing Academics PLUS could begin. She added that NIU PLUS will be marketed in a very deliberate way both for continuing and incoming students and to use as a recruiting tool. Birberick also mentioned that new Board of Trustees members are going through an “on-boarding” process, and are learning about the many different facets of NIU, including
academic programs. New Trustee Barsema was very excited to hear about PLUS, especially since he is teaching one of the courses in a pathway. He is very supportive of the program. It is being copied by other universities. Klonoski said that when Pres. Baker goes to fundraising events, the first thing he speaks about after the state’s budget situation is NIU PLUS. It’s an example of how, despite the financial difficulties, NIU is still offering outstanding programs. As for marketing, new materials have been created as well as a new banner and table signs. Kersh gave an overview of Engage PLUS, which allows for the time-intensive engaged learning activities to be noted on students’ transcripts. There are six categories of engaged activities and if students do four out of the six, it will receive an additional special notation on their transcripts. She added that The Chronicle of Higher Education wrote an article on Engage PLUS and it’s a model that is being looked at nationally. The activities and categories are informed by High Impact Practices (HIPs) and they are time intensive and supervised by faculty. Kersh provided the BC with a report on Engage PLUS. For Engage PLUS applications are ready now for next fall and it was clarified that students do not enroll in additional classes and there is no additional cost. Umoren asked if faculty have been informed about Engage PLUS; she in unaware of any faculty who are working with students in this capacity. Kersh replied that she has been to a number of college meetings as the program has developed and there has been messaging to faculty from Birberick. Birberick encouraged BC members to take the PLUS information back to their colleges to better inform faculty. Kersh added that she can continue to make presentations to faculty upon request. Kot asked if departmental advisors were informed and Kersh said that she presented to the advising deans and at a campus-wide advising conference. Glover talked about Jobs PLUS. It became evident that this program needed to be developed when students kept missing professional development opportunities because they had to work. Jobs PLUS allows students to attend professional development workshops and get paid for their time if they work for an area employer who participates in Jobs PLUS. This can be used as a selling point on their resumes, where these students’ work experiences stand out compared to other students because of the professional development they are able to receive. All events are facilitated by NIU faculty or staff or an alumnum recommended by faculty/staff. Kersh added that the workshops are open to all students, not just those who are attending on their work time. The workshops are also certified as passport eligible for business students and as Honors Engaged activities. A discussion followed regarding how NIU PLUS works for transfer students. Engage and Jobs PLUS work well with transfer students. They can also work on Academics PLUS and the pathways if they still need to complete general education requirements or courses for other requirements that might lead to a pathway. It only takes nine credits to complete a pathway focus. Estes said that it is very easy to see to NIU students excited about NIU PLUS, including transfer students. Birberick noted that the whole program is flexible for both students and the university and provides opportunity for growth and change. Birberick asked BC members to spread the word about NIU PLUS.

b. Contract majors and KNPE 101 letter suffixed courses. Smith explained that this report was provided to the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum (CUC) in the past so now will be provided to the BC. The purpose of the report is to determine if there are any trends with contract majors and, if so, to recommend that they be submitted for permanent additions to the catalog through the curricular process. It was noted that none of the contract majors are showing trends of large numbers of student participation. The same reason is why the KNPE 101 letter suffixed courses are submitted. If a certain topic is offered often enough, it could be recommended that the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education offer a permanent course for that topic. There were no trends for the KNPE 101 letter suffixed courses.
c. 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. Smith reported that there will be an addition to this report due to a recent approval by the IBHE.

d. Section D. Items reported for inclusion in the 2018-19 Undergraduate Catalog by another undergraduate curriculum committee.

IV. Consent Agenda.

a. College minutes with no undergraduate curricular items
   i. College of Education #8
   ii. College of Health and Human Sciences #14
   iii. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences #11
   iv. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences #12
   v. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences #13
   vi. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences #15

b. College minutes with undergraduate curricular items
   i. College of Business #9
   ii. College of Business #10
   iii. College of Education #9 (pending BOT approval)
   iv. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences #14

c. Other Items
   i. CIUAE minutes from February 6, 2017
   ii. CIUAE minutes from March 6, 2017
   iii. GEC minutes from February 16, 2017
   iv. GEC minutes from March 23, 2017
   v. Honors Committee minutes from December 2, 2016
   vi. Honors Committee minutes from February 3, 2017
   vii. Honors Committee minutes from March 3, 2017

Marsh made a motion, seconded by Strid, TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. Gorman asked about Honors Committee minutes and proposed changes to the honors program. Birberick replied that Honors Director Todd Gilson is still gathering feedback. This will probably be an agenda item for the BC in the fall. Motion passed unanimously.

V. College Minutes for Discussion.

a. College of Health and Human Sciences #15 (page 1). Birberick said that these are off the consent agenda to get BC feedback on the course revision to UHHS 470. Umoren made a motion, seconded by Truckenbrod, TO APPROVE THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULAR ITEMS IN COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES #15 (2/24/17). For UHHS 470, the college is adding the wording: “S/U grading may be used.” The
college clarified that all students in each class would be graded that way if the faculty member so chooses and that there are other courses in the catalog that have this exact wording. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VI. Unfinished Business.

a. There was no unfinished business.

VII. New Business

a. Military Education Experience Credit. Birberick explained that NIU has always offered military education experience credit and has always used the American Council on Education (ACE) to evaluate military education experience credit. The ACE does the evaluation per their system. However, the policy has been that credit can’t be for upper-level credit. Birberick said that a number of NIU personnel, including the Registrar, Jerry Montag, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Dave Ballantine, attended training on military education experience credit. It was decided that the ACE evaluation credit will still come in as elective, but if it’s evaluated as lower or upper division, that’s where the credit will go. To get major or departmental credit, the student would have to request that and the department would have to agree. Hunt made a motion, seconded by Braun, **TO APPROVE THE CATALOG REVISIONS FOR MILITARY EDUCATION EXPERIENCE.** Birberick pointed out that what was changed is that NIU will accept the credit level as recommended by ACE. Montag added that NIU is finally aligning with other institutions. Marsh said that from a student’s perspective they will feel like what they’ve done regarding military course work matters. Birberick agreed that it validates the learning they’ve had. **Motion passed unanimously.**

b. ACT and SAT Scores for Admission. Birberick explained that there is a growing trend for admissions to allow the ACT/SAT to be optional. Pres. Baker asked if she would bring this idea to the BC for discussion on what would be the consequences if NIU adopted this policy. Feedback from today’s meeting will guide her on what information to collect for the next meeting in the fall to continue consideration of this idea. What it means by saying the exams are optional is that the scores might not be used in determining admissions. Garvey said that currently admissions is based on a combination of a test score (either ACT or SAT) and GPA or class rank. If NIU went test optional that piece would drop out of the equation. Kot asked if there would be a substitution for the tests. Birberick said she started to look at what other schools do and it is something the BC would also need to discuss, that if a student wanted to waive their test score, might they need to have a higher GPA/class rank to do so. Kot expressed concern with solely using the GPA. Students taking more difficult courses in high school might have lower GPAs than students taking easier courses. The student taking more difficult courses would probably do better in college. Johns asked that if the test was optional, would the score be discarded? Birberick said that would be part of the conversation. Garvey said from a processing perspective, being test optional would radically alter the admissions process, which currently is automated. Test scores, GPA, and class rank go in a computer process and the decision is rendered automatically. Going to test optional makes the admissions process more subjective. Waite asked how this would affect decisions for
c. Undergraduate Representation on Baccalaureate Council (I. Truckenbrod and A. Waite). This issue was brought forward because Truckenbrod and Waite felt that it is important to get more student input on the BC. The BC bylaws are well defined regarding representation. But they don’t address how students get appointed to the BC. Each undergraduate college is supposed to have one student representation for a total of six. This year we’ve had two (from Business and Liberal Arts and Sciences). Truckenbrod and Waite said that as students they often feel awkward making decisions being only a third of the student representation. They wanted to reach out to BC members and ask them to take this issue back and try to figure out why their colleges don’t have student representatives. Gorman said this is a problem on every committee. Truckenbrod said he was appointed to the BC by being extremely active in his department. Waite was recruited by the dean’s advisory board that he serves on. Waite said he didn’t know the BC existed until he was asked to participate. He asked if there is a way to increase awareness of university committees among students. A brief discussion followed with suggestions to increase awareness and involvement including sending out a mass e-mail and maybe offering scholarships for committee members. Gorman summarized the issues: students are unaware of university committees and can the university incentivize committee...
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He suggested that UNIV 101 can inform students on getting involved and could Engage PLUS be a way of rewarding students for participation. Birberick thanked Truckenbrod and Waite, as well as the other BC members, for their services. Everyone worked really hard and it was determined that combining curricular approvals with the approvals of polices and standards in one committee is doable.

Truckenbrod made a motion, seconded by Atkins, to ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m. by acclamation.

The next meeting of the Baccalaureate Council is tentatively scheduled for September 14, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Smith