

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL
Third Meeting/ 2019-2020 Academic Year
November 14, 2019**

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Voting Members: A. Ferguson (BUS), S. Ehsani (BUS), R. Caughron (EDU), L. Hedin (EDU),
Present J. Ryu (EET), L. Guo (EET), E. Myung (HHS), J. Umoren (HHS), S. Daskal (LAS), D. Gorman (LAS), L. Crowley (LAS), J. Wolfskill (LAS), M. Lenczewski (LAS), J. Hathaway (VPA), J. Siblik (VPA), W. Finley (Libraries), G. Montero (Student, HHS), C. Sharkey (Student, LAS), C. Maher (Advisor)

Ex-Officio Non- O. Ghrayeb (Vice Provost), J. Montag (Registration and Records), A. Byrd
Voting Members (Registration and Records), C. Garvey (Admissions), K. Saalfeld (Transfer
Present: Center), J. Evar Strid (UCIEL)

Guests: A. Radasanu (Acting Director, Honors Program), D. Ballantine (Associate Dean, CLAS), N. Pohlman (Assistant Professor, CEET), N. Bolden (President, Student Association), Q. Clay (Director of Admissions), K. Thu (President, Faculty Senate), G. Barker (Director, Testing Services), S. Jensen (VP Mrktg & Communications), T. Ash (Counselor, CHANCE)

The Baccalaureate Council (BC) meeting was called to order by Vice Provost Ghrayeb.

I. Introductions/Adoption of Agenda

Caughron made a motion, seconded by Lenczewski, to APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 14, 2019 BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL MEETING. **Motion passed unanimously.** Ghrayeb asked for a motion to move the presentations to the top of the Agenda. Caughron made a motion, seconded by Daskal. **Motion passed unanimously.**

II. New Business

- A. Honors Proposal – This presentation was moved from item B to item A. Andrea Radasanu, the Acting Director of the University Honors Program, was present along with Dave Ballantine and Nick Pohlman to answer questions about their previously submitted proposals. Ghrayeb called for a motion to discuss the proposal. Lenczewski made a motion that was seconded by Caughron; the **motion was approved unanimously.**

The driving force behind the changes in admission to the Honors Program is the desire for inclusivity, by utilizing a holistic review process. This will allow for consideration of criteria outside of academic record and test scores. The dormant provisional program is being resurrected with new emphasis on peer mentoring and support resources for success. Ghrayeb called for a vote to approve, Caughron made a motion that was seconded by Wolfskill. **The vote on the motion for the Honors Admission Proposal was approved unanimously.** This item will be updated immediately in the 2019-20 Online Catalog.

Ghrayeb called for a motion to discuss the Honors Course Designators that was previously approved by the General Education Committee on November 4, 2019 by electronic vote. Lenczewski made a motion to discuss that was seconded by Wolfskill; the **motion was approved unanimously.**

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The Honors course designators are to be utilized to foster the interdisciplinary goals set for the Honors Seminars. The designators will also facilitate the opportunity to have the seminars assessed for General Education and Writing Infused requirements. Radasanu is hopeful this will increase Honors participation by easing the number of courses students must take to meet all of their graduation requirements. From the College and faculty perspective, the designators will help with planning the seminars around current and relevant topical issues. They will also work with the new Faculty Fellow program. Caughron called for a vote to approve and Gorman seconded; **the vote on the motion for the Honors Course Designators was approved unanimously.**

- B. ACT/SAT Proposal – Ghrayeb asked for a motion to discuss, Caughron moved and Sharkey seconded; **the motion was approved unanimously.** Kendall Thu began the discussion with an explanation of how the shared governance structure will allow for balance on this issue. Thu requested that the Baccalaureate Council create and approve the catalog language as the Faculty Senate was not equipped to do this.

Sol Jensen provided the background for the change. Equity is the driver for this proposal and maintaining alignment with the Merit Scholarship test free assessment starting in 2020-21. Without this alignment, NIU's admissions standards could hinder the awarding of these merit based awards. Quinton Clay discussed the higher education admissions environment, providing an overview of the evolution of holistic review, and the success that other institutions have had with the process. Clay laid out the highly personalized and contextual flexibility that Holistic Review will allow. Clay stressed how this will allow for diverse decisions that are institutionally responsible. Additionally, it gives students greater control over their application process. Finally, Greg Barker discussed the overwhelming data available as to the benefit of Holistic Review versus test scores. This included a presentation of NIU's student data, which is in line with study data on this topic.

Naomi Bolden, president of the Student Association, stated that the student association gave its support to the proposal. Bolden felt that it would reduce barriers to minorities and first generation students and that the data supported this statement. Additionally, Bolden discussed the positive impact on student self-esteem through the Holistic Review process versus through the testing process on these populations.

Ferguson asked the presenters how they envision Holistic Review in practice. Jensen and Clay both affirmed that it will be highly flexible and personalized to the individual applicant. No rubric will be used to restrict or prescribe what the review will include or not include. Clay stressed that NIU admissions representatives are highly trained and up to this task. Additional training will be done for the University Review Committee to ensure that the Holistic Review process is operationalized properly. Clay indicated that he will sit on the University Review Committee.

Ferguson followed up with a question in regards to how GPA will be standardized across high schools. Jensen indicated that the goal of the Holistic Review is to look at

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the student's coursework including the academic course rigor and grade trends over the student's academic career, not to compare high school to high school. Saalfeld commented that from her experience, many students do have at least one semester grade dip in their high school transcripts, and this can impact their overall GPA. Continuing, Saalfeld explained that the Holistic Review will afford NIU the opportunity to understand these students and the non-academic strengths they have gained from their life experiences.

Multiple members questioned the panel as to how many students the Holistic Review would impact. Jensen provided the follow numbers:

75-100 GED Applicants
1000 Applicants in the 2 to 2.49 GPA range
2000 Applicants in the 2.5 to 2.99 GPA range

As all of these students would fall in to the Holistic Review process, members were concerned about how the current admissions staff would handle this load. Clay indicated that his staff would not have difficulties with this load as much of it is spread out across the year. Jensen concurred with this assessment and further explained that even with the current ACT/SAT requirements, admissions staff still review individual applications. Given this, the level of work would remain about the same.

Ghrayeb discussed how the proposal will impact the CHANCE program. Currently recruitment is one focus of the CHANCE program. This will now be handled with the Holistic Review and the counselors can focus on supporting and retaining students. The Holistic Review process will open more opportunities for these students; with fewer barriers to admissions, merit based scholarships, and the University Honors program, CHANCE participants can embrace more of what NIU has to offer them. Ongoing success coaching and other supportive and accountability services provided by CHANCE will not be impacted by this proposal.

Tracy Ash was questioned about how the proposal might impact CHANCE. Ash provided positive feedback and indicated consideration had been given to the program and counselors. Ash stated building accountability and intentionality for students is her focus and this was not going to change. Maher and Wolfskill voiced concern about how Holistic Review might negatively impact CHANCE. Ghrayeb provided additional information about who could benefit from the services of CHANCE and why this isn't limited to those students at the lower end of the GPA scale. Caughron requested that the expectations for students be better communicated. BC members requested that the CHANCE language be refined and the panel agreed to do this.

Sharkey questioned the current GED and homeschooled language, which still requires test scores. Sharkey stated that this population is often marginalized by test scores and reflected back to Bolden's statements about self-esteem and success. Daskal and Wolfskill concurred that this language is troublesome in terms of

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inclusivity and equity.

It was decided that due to the need to revise these two sections, the proposal would be re-addressed and the final version would be presented for vote on December 5, 2019. Lenczewski made a motion to table the ACT/SAT proposal and Caughron seconded; **this motion was approved unanimously.**

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Gorman made a motion to skip the announcements, seconded by Crowley; **the motion was approved unanimously.**

IV. CONSENT AGENDA – Ghrayeb asked for a motion to discuss consent agenda. Caughron made a motion and Gorman seconded; **the motion was approved unanimously.** Wolfskill requested that Item CEDU 05 B2 be moved to discussion. Discussion ensued in regards to the new ESports courses. Additional rationale was provided by College of Education council member Hedin in regards to the essential skill building and marketing that will be necessary to support the new ESports minor that will be presented at a future BC meeting.

- A. College minutes with **no** undergraduate curricular items
 - 1. College of Education 03 (AY 2019-20)
 - 2. College of Education 11 (AY 2018-19)
Note - this item was never received by the Curriculum Coordinator and therefore needs to be approved.
 - 3. College of Visual and Performing Arts 01 (AY 2019-20)
 - 4. College of Visual and Performing Arts 02 (AY 2019-20)

- B. College minutes with undergraduate curricular items for review and consent
 - 1. College of Business UG 03 (AY 2019-20)
 - 2. College of Education 05 (AY 2019-20)
 - 3. College of Engineering and Engineering Technology 02 (AY 2019-20)
 - 4. College of Engineering and Engineering Technology 04 (AY 2019-20)
 - 5. College of Health and Human Sciences 05 (AY 2019-20)
 - 6. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 05 (AY 2019-20) -

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Wolfskill, seconded by Lenczewski; **the motion was approved unanimously.**

Ghrayeb called for a motion to table the Discussion Agenda and remaining New Business items until December 05, 2019. Lenczewski made a motion to table and adjourn, which was seconded by Caughron. **The motion was approved unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

The next meeting of the Baccalaureate Council is December 05, 2019, 12:30-3:00, HSC Heritage Room.

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Respectfully submitted,

Denise Halverson
Curriculum Coordinator/ Catalog Editor