

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL
Sixth Meeting/ 2021-2022 Academic Year
February 10, 2022
Remote via Microsoft Teams**

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Voting Members Present: A. Ferguson (BUS), S. Ehsani (BUS), N. Andzik (EDU), R. Caughron (EDU), E. Sebastiao (EDU), J. Ryu (EET), A. McCarthy, (HHS), A. Schatteman (LAS), S. Daskal (LAS), T. Jacobsen Gidaszewski (LAS), J. Flynn (LAS), M. Lenczewski (LAS), R. Houze (VPA), B. Hart (VPA), M. Myles, (Advising Director), W. Finley (Libraries)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: O. Ghrayeb (Senior Vice Provost), M. Lagunas (Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Management), C. Schmitz (University Registrar), C. Garvey (Associate Director, Information Technology), K. Saalfeld (Associate Director, Enrollment Management), Eric Armstrong (Student Affairs), J. Evar Strid (UCIEL),

Guests Present: Vernese Edghill-Walden (Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

The Baccalaureate Council (BC) meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m. by Senior Vice Provost, Academic Affairs, and Chair Omar Ghrayeb.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Ghrayeb called for a motion to approve the agenda for the February 10, 2022. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Myles. The motion was **APPROVED unanimously**.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - All minutes from FA21 BC meetings are approved and in Teams for review.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Vernese Edghill-Walden, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, is in attendance to discuss the new course proposal for UNIV 301.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA – None

V. DISCUSSION AGENDA

A. Section A

1. *College of Engineering and Engineering Technology* – Ghrayeb called for a motion to approve V.A.1. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Sebastiao.

All items including in the motion from the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

CEET 10 (AY 2021-2022)
Item CEET21.22.10.02/NC ISYE 485

CEET Audit (AY 2021-2022)
Item CEET21.22.AUDIT.01/PR Mechatronics/Adding CHEM 210_212
Item CEET21.22.AUDIT.02/Engineering Technology Revision of Educational Objectives

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2. *University*

Ghrayeb introduced UNIV 301 as a course proposed for consideration by the Provost's Office and called for a motion to discuss and approve V.A.2. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Jacobsen Gidaszewski.

Motivation for Course

- Social mobility for all students is part of NIU's mission.
- Advising has been expanded to include three domains:
 - Traditional academic advising for program completion.
 - Financial advising to engender financial literacy within the student body. A new unit Financial Advising unit has been developed to assist students with a financial plan to pay for educational expenses.
 - Career advising is the final domain and assists with developing the skills to necessary to gain employment in a student's desired field.
- Fifty seven percent of NIU's incoming freshman class are first generation students. This cohort often lacks the necessary career planning exposure.
- BRAVEN's mission fills the need of career advising for this population specifically and more broadly allows for expanded career planning skill building for any NIU student who would like to take the course.
- This course will not replace career planning courses within major programs.
- The course is a 16 week course at the 300 level so that if a department would like to use the course as an elective in their program it meets that criteria.
- The relationship does not stop when the course is over. Mentorship and networking opportunities will continue for any student who completes the course.
- The course will be offered through NIU Career Services. There will be a NIU faculty member as the instructor of record.

Vernese Edghill-Walden presented additional motivation for offering UNIV 301

- Important course in realizing the goal of achieving a holistic approach to student success for all students who attend NIU. This course will augment what is currently happening on campus to help students develop and utilize social capital.
- Discussions with alums of color have surfaced an issue of the continuing difficulty this student population faces in navigating the job search upon graduation. Specifically, there are challenges finding employment in their field.
- One benefit of UNIV 301 is that it will allow students to begin building a network prior to graduation. This course will instruct students on how to leverage existing social capital and expand this through network skill building.
- Closure of equity gap in job placement through the rigor of a course setting.

BC Member's questions and concerns addressed in the discussion.

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- Schatteman, a Rutgers Alum, reached out to them in regards to BRAVEN. They provided positive feedback. Schatteman questioned how assessment will occur, how student data is protected in the partnership, and how profession specific coaches are selected to participate by BRAVEN. Specifically, what if BRAVEN does not have adequate coaches in one field to meet the needs of NIU students?
 - Ghrayeb indicated that assessment will included quizzes, capstone, final presentation, and other assignments and will be rubric driven for clarity and consistency. Career Services is working to recruit coaches for this course as well and they can help to fill any gaps in field content.
 - Ghrayeb also clarified that both BRAVEN and the NIU Foundation will be contributing funds to offer the course. Stressing this is a partnership and NIU will contribute to the management of the course.
- Myles questioned why NIU is outsourcing to another company instead of developing a course internally to meet these needs.
 - Ghrayeb stressed that the course content is only part of the course. The mentoring and networking components is what BRAVEN specializes in and has extensive nationwide contacts to assist students.
 - Edghill-Walden added that BRAVEN translates the content to networking and internship opportunities that NIU may not be able to offer with an internal course. This is particularly helpful for students of color, who have expressed difficulty finding field specific internships, which provide opportunities for economic upward mobility after graduating.
- Ferguson questioned what the long-term vision is for this course. How will it evolve to fit programs and elective needs?
 - Ghrayeb indicated that the skills students learn in this course are transportable and the capstone is tailored to meta-majors areas. The course will not be required but the hope is that most students will eventually engage with this course. Departments can utilize the course as an elective if they desire. These are department specific decisions and the University does not dictate this.
- Caughron stated that this could increase the number of organizations that recruit on campus, which is a positive benefit for all NIU students. Additionally, he asked what the marketing plan and the role of advisors will be in promoting this top-down course.
 - Ghrayeb discussed the idea of a top-down course indicating that it would only be top-down if departments were told their students must take this course and that is not the case.
 - Myles, an Academic Advising Director, responded to Caughron's question about the role of advisors in marketing this course. Myles appreciates the concept of this course and why it is needed but has some contractual control questions. Ghrayeb stressed that the instructor of record will have the administrative control of this course. Student data and assessment will drive the future of the course.

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- Schatteman asked about the resources needed to scale the course as it grows.
 - Ghrayeb reiterated that the course is funded by the NIU Foundation and BRAVEN through fundraising. Additionally, as an online course graduate assistants will be used to support the instructor of record as the enrollment numbers increase.
- McCarthy supportive of content but also has concerns with the outsourcing of this type of course. Could the resource be used to better serve our students through augmenting existing courses with additional funding?
 - Ghrayeb clarified that this course is not outsourcing. This is a partnership with BRAVEN and NIU has the ability to enhance the focus to meet our students' needs working with the NIU instructor of record. This is an experiential learning platform for NIU students.
 - BRAVEN contributes to the funding of this course and that would not be available to NIU or this course without the partnership.
- Edghill-Walden urged members to look beyond the course, as the relationships are resources. Existing NIU courses have not been able to help all students build rigorous networks that are needed for success.
- Houze commented about her concern that the networks may not meet the needs of the students in the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Houze also questioned what the overall cost to NIU would be for this partnership.
 - Ghrayeb again stressed that the skills will help all majors to develop a resume, interviewing skills, and making network connections. Ghrayeb was not able to provide the overall cost as stated in the contract.
- Daskal wanted to clarify that no student tuition will fund this course.
 - Ghrayeb confirmed this statement.
- Schatteman was concerned that the outside mentors might not be vetted according to NIU values. To safeguard against this will graduate assistants participate in all aspects of this course to ensure content as it unfolds meets NIU standards?
 - Ghrayeb stated that this participation will be necessary so that graduate assistants are well versed in the material and can assist students.
- Myles questioned if there were student enrollment numbers that must be contractually met.
 - Ghrayeb indicated that there was no enrollment quota.

All items including in the motion from the University, Office of the Provost, were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UNIV 01 (AY 2021-2022)
ItemUNIV21.22.01.01/UNIV 301: Leadership and Career Accelerator

B. Section D

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1. *Submitted for consideration by the Committee of the Curricular Deans and the Academic Advising Directors- Academic Regulations Proposal for Administrative Removal*

Ghrayeb presented the background and called for a motion to approve V.B.1. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Myles.

The proposal for the Academic Regulations for Administrative Removal revision was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2. *Submitted for consideration by the Committee of the Curricular Deans - Foundational Studies Quantitative Literacy Requirement Proposal*

Ghrayeb presented the background and called for a motion to approve V.B.2. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Sebastiano.

- Myles questioned if the ACT/SAT can still be used to fulfill the requirement. A second question was asked about the Math Competency Exam and the placement test. Differentiation is needed.
 - Ghrayeb indicated that as NIU does not require these test for admission, no scores are collected. Therefore, only if a student asks for this consideration will those scores be considered.
 - Myles asks for approval with a friendly amendment if needed. Ghrayeb concurred.

The proposal for the Foundational Studies Quantitative Literacy Requirement revision was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Ghrayeb call for a motion to adjourn. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Sebastiano. The sixth meeting of the Baccalaureate Council for the academic year 2021-22 was adjourned at 1:51 pm. The next meeting of the Baccalaureate Council will be held March 10, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Halverson
Curriculum Coordinator/ Catalog Editor