

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BACCALAUREATE COUNCIL
Third Meeting/ 2021-2022 Academic Year
November 11, 2021
Remote via Microsoft Teams**

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Voting Members Present:

A. Ferguson (BUS), S. Ehsani (BUS), E. Sebastiao (EDU), N. Andzik (EDU), R. Caughron (EDU), J.C. Ryu (EET), M. Vaezi (EET), N. Salimi (HHS), A. McCarthy (HHS), A. Schatteman (LAS), S. Daskal (LAS), T. Jacobsen (LAS), J. Flynn (LAS), M. Lenczewski (LAS), R. Houze (VPA), B. Hart (VPA), M. Myles, (Advising Director), W. Finley (Libraries), J. Conacher (LAS, Student Member), L. Derain (HHS, Student Member)

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present:

O. Ghrayeb (Senior Vice Provost), C. Schmitz (Registrar), J. Evar Strid (UCIEL), E. Armstrong (Student Affairs), D. Halverson (Curriculum Coordinator/Catalog Editor)

Guests Present:

Andrea Radasanu (Director University Honors Program)

The Baccalaureate Council (BC) meeting was called to order at 12:30 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 October 14, 2021. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by McCarthy. The motion was **APPROVED unanimously**.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from the 10.14.2021 BC meeting are approved and in Teams for review.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Halverson reminded members that there are four Colleges, CBUS, CEDU, CEET, and CVPA that have student openings on the Baccalaureate Council. BC members are able to nominate students to sit.

IV. CONENT 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 Ferguson. All items from the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

CEET 06 (AY 2021-22)

Item CEET21.22.06.01/PR Engineering Technology Emphasis 1

2. *College of Health and Human Sciences* – Ghrayeb called for a motion to approve V.A.2. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Jacobsen. Item CHHS21.22.04.02 was tabled by CHHS due to incomplete impact statement. Item CHHS21.22.04.01 was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

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CHHS 04 (AY 2021-22)
Item CHHS21.22.04.01/PR Minor Financial Counseling

3. *College of Liberal Arts and Sciences* – Ghrayeb called for a motion to approve V.A.3. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Ferguson. All items from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

CLAS 03 (AY 2021-22)
Item CLAS21.22.03.02/PR Minor Latino/Latin American Studies CUS
Item CLAS21.22.03.03/NC ECON 391
Item CLAS21.22.03.04/PR Economics BS Requirement
Item CLAS21.22.03.05/PR Economics BABS
Item CLAS21.22.03.06/PR Economics w/Honors
Item CLAS21.22.03.07/NC SOCI 387
Item CLAS21.22.03.08/NC SOCI 484

B. Section D

1. *University Honor Program* – Andrea Radasanu, Director of the University Honors Program, was in attendance to present the proposal. The proposal consisted of a new Honors Capstone course and revision to the Honors Program due to the removal of the points system from the program. The program is based on courses completed and co-curricular activities documented. Ghrayeb called for a motion to approve V.B.1. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Ferguson. Myles asked for an explanation on the change from guaranteed admissions to preferred admissions agreements with NIU graduate programs. Radasanu explained that this was for student transparency as for some graduate programs there are additional admissions requirements that even honors students are required to meet. Schatteman raised concerns about how the honors capstone would/could be combined with program capstone projects. Radasanu affirmed that the University Honors Program would allow students to use major program capstone work when completing honors capstone requirements. The new course and program revision were **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Item UHON21.22.01.01/NC HON 499 (p.1)
Item UHON21.22.01.02/ University Honors PR

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. *New Framework for the General Education Domains* – Rod Caughron, Chair of the General Education Committee, and Omar Ghrayeb presented the new framework to the Baccalaureate Council. The framework presented is as follows with one core

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student learning and one elective student learning outcome assigned to each Knowledge Domain:

Creativity and Critical Analysis

Core SLO:

- Critical Thinking

Elective SLO (chose one):

- Quantitative and Qualitative Reasoning
- Intercultural Competencies

Nature and Technology

Core SLO:

- Human Life and Natural World

Elective SLO (chose one):

- Global Interconnections and Interdependencies
- Critical Thinking

Society and Culture

Core SLO:

- Intercultural Competencies

Elective SLO (chose one):

- Global Interconnections and Interdependencies
- Critical Thinking

Daskal had concerns about how the rubrics aligned with the courses currently in the Domains. Ghrayeb explained that the course did not need to align to the rubric in its entirety. Additionally, as this is a pilot program, the rubrics may need to be modified after the data is reviewed from the first phase of the re-alignment. Caughron emphasized that the goal was to give clarity to the structure through the new framework and application process so that the pilot could move forward. This will allow the General Education Committee to build a better assessment process. Ghrayeb noted that NIU must assess the General Education program to meet HLC accreditation requirements. The goal is to build a new application which matches the framework. The department will determine which rubrics will guide the assessment of their course(s) to determine if general education goals are being met.

Concerns were raised about how the re-structure will impact courses already in a Domain. Ghrayeb explained that courses will be re-assessed over several years to determine if they are in the correct Domain. If not, the department will have the option to re-submit the course using the new application under a different Domain. The goal is to have a framework that has clarity of purpose to better facilitate assessment of general education goals.

Ghrayeb call for a motion to approve the new General Education Framework. Ferguson so moved and Myles seconded. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

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Due to the new framework, clarification of language in the catalog is necessary. Ghrayeb call for a motion to approve the new General Education Language. Ferguson so moved and Myles seconded. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Ghrayeb call for a motion to adjourn. Caughron so moved and this was seconded by Flynn. The third meeting of the Baccalaureate Council for the academic year 2021-22 was adjourned at 1:37 pm. The next meeting of the Baccalaureate Council will be held December 02, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Halverson
Curriculum Coordinator/ Catalog Editor