

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
BACCALAUREATE
COUNCIL
Sixth Meeting/Academic year
2023-24 February 8, 2024
Meeting Format: Teams**

Voting Members Present: Hart, B. (CVPA), Ferguson, A. (CBUS), McGowan, B. (Libraries), La France, B. (CLAS), Chubenko, O. (CLAS), Holland, N. (Advising), Ehsani, S. (CBUS), Strid, J.E. (CEDU), Caughron, R. (CEDU), Gidaszewski, T. (CLAS), Cho, K.T. (CEET), Boughton, D. (CVPA).

Voting Members Absent: Salehinia, I. (CEET), Saravanan, A. (CHHS), Linner, A. (CLAS), Thepboriruk, K (CLAS),

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present: Gawron, I. (Office of the Vice Provost), Hutchinson, A. (CHANCE), Schatteman, A. (Office of the Vice Provost), Lagunas, M. (Admissions), Schmitz, C. (Office of Registrar), Garvey, C. (Information Technology), Smith, R. (Transfer Center Coordinator), Pollock, D. (Follett), Sandstrom, K. (Follett)

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

- I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Schatteman called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Caughron motioned and McGowan seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Schatteman indicated the minutes were approved via email.
- III. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. General Education Committee
 - i. Caughron gave a brief report discussing the upcoming Gen Ed retreat and next steps for updating NIU’s Gen Ed program.
 - b. CUIAE Report –
 - i. Schatteman gave a brief report on the nomination deadlines for faculty and what the awards center around.
 - c. Part 1 – Submitted to BC as Expedited
 - i. No Items were present on Expedited
 - d. Part 2 – Determined to be Expedited by the BC Executive Committee
 - i. Attachment E.2
 1. Caughron motioned to approve E2. McGowan seconded. E.2 approved unanimously.
- IV. Guest Discussions
 - a. Bookstore Feedback

Pollock and Sandstrom led the discussion. Discussion primarily focused on: Adoption rates, challenges the bookstore/NIU are facing in adequately providing service to students/faculty, specific difficulties such as server disruptions and digital item distribution, various metrics, and individual

student experiences. Discussion included: Caughron, Schatteman, Pollock, Sandstrom, Ferguson

Toward the end of the meeting, the bookstore discussion was revisited and Caughron motioned a vote to urge the administration to not renew the contract with Follett when it expires. Gidaszewski seconded. Additional discussion topics included: aspects of the contract and process to change provider from Follett if the contract is not renewed. The motion passed with 10 yes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Strid).

V. DISCUSSION AGENDA

- a. For inclusion in the 2024-2025 Catalog. Dates listed after items are when the items were approved at the College
 - i. College of Business – *No Curricular Items*
 - ii. College of Education – *No Curricular Items*
 - iii. College of Engineering – *No Curricular Items*
 - iv. College of Health and Human Sciences – *No Curricular Items*
 - v. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – *No Curricular Items*
 - vi. College of Visual and Performing Arts – *No Curricular Items*
 - vii. Honors – *No Curricular Items*
 - viii. Directly to BC – *No Curricular Items*

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Community-Engaged Course Designation

Schatteman led the discussion and explained that NIU received the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2010 and then was redesignated in 2020. NIU is now getting ready for the next redesignation application in 2026. To strengthen the commitment to community engagement at NIU, Schatteman explained the idea of designating courses as Community-Engaged. Designation could help inform student decision making and highlight the many community-engaged courses already at NIU. Designated community-engaged courses could take place at the section level or at the course level. This would be optional for faculty and departments. Schatteman will bring a proposal to the Baccalaureate Council at the next meeting to go into more specifics about a proposed process for designation. Discussion included: Strid, Schatteman, Holland, McGowan, Lagunas.

b. Bylaws Update Discussion

Schatteman led the discussion and explained that the bylaws for the BC have outdated language, and they generally need cleanup to make things more modern. Topics included the mechanics of getting this approved/updated, anything more substantive that might need to change in the bylaws, and volunteers for updating the language. There was a call for volunteers for the ad hoc committee to update the bylaws. The new members of the ad hoc committee to update the bylaws are: Schatteman, Ferguson, Strid. Discussion

included primarily: Schatteman, Ferguson, Strid.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT