**Northern Illinois University**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (CIUAE)**

Monday, February 3, 2024

Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Approved Minutes**

Present: Alicia Schatteman, Wenlian Gao, Farah Ishaq, Shannon Becker, Shicheng Chen, Carol Walther, Alissa Droog, Sam Lee, Yasuo Ito, Greg Barrett, Tylo Blackburn, Calvin Soldan, Caela Hinkle, John Boswell, Andrea Radasanu, Jeanie Sparacino, Mark Pienkos, Diane Alberts (for Jason Rhode)

Absent: Ja’kobe Jones, Maddux Chanthaboury, Dante Fishman, Jason Rhode,

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Farah Ishaq started the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Alissa Droog made a motion to approve the agenda; Shicheng Chen seconded, approved unanimously.

Membership Updates. Ishaq asked the committee if anyone was interested in being the new chair for Fall 2025, offered to have a co-chair for Spring 2025 and then they chair in Fall 2025.

Approval of Minutes

Yasuo Ito made a motion to accept November 4, 2024, minutes, Shannon Becker seconded the motion, approved unanimously.

Baccalaureate Council Updates – VP Alicia Schatteman updated the committee,

* preliminary data for the 10-day counts is up from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 for undergraduates and graduate students has decreased, more numbers will be out soon. Retention for undergraduates for Fall to Spring was 84% and new freshmen are at 88.6%, new transfer students are at 92.5%.
* The educator licensure test prep will be free to any student at NIU. Contract signed with Kaplan, so anything that's in the Kaplan All access test prep catalog, all public university students will have access to for free, for this calendar year 2025.
* Updating the curricular approval process in the policy library and shifting to an online platform.
* Community engage courses, we now have nine undergraduate courses that have been approved by going through the curriculum approval process, and five graduate courses approved by the Graduate Council.

Student Engagement Fund (SEF) – Andrea Radasanu gave updates to the committee.

* Conference on Undergraduate Research and Engagement (CURE) is on April 29, 2025. CURE has many resources as well as faculty engagement opportunities on the website.
* New format for CURE, a round table format for students for the first hour and then the poster format. Can use other forms to present research besides the poster format.
* New format for recognizing faculty, a standard that if you're above it, you can be labeled as a Faculty Honors Faculty of Distinction.
* Career Services update, a career launchpad, an engagement tool into a format for students to use on a regular basis.

Old Business – Farah Ishaq

* Reviewed the award process for Excellence in Undergraduate Instruction Award (EUIA), Excellence in Teaching Award (EUTA,
* Reviewed the award schedule and application process of the David W. Raymond Award, more discussion at next meeting, March 3, 2025. Voted to move deadline date, 1st Yasuo Ito, 2nd Droog, motion passed, deadline date will move from March 17, 2025 to March 21, 2025.
* Feedback, trying to simplify it.

New Business – Farah Ishaq

* Mental Health and Wellbeing Statement, Student Affairs inquired about the statement and the process. Nothing needs to be done at the moment, may need to revisit in future.

Committee Focus Theme- Student Retention

* Good news from Dr. Schatteman about retention.
* Spring semester goals for retention, now what, and the goal setting component.
* What are specific areas of student retention we can particularly focus on?
* Committee brainstormed and Ishaq shared with the group.

Announcements – None

Adjournment - Becker moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ito. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 2:44 p.m.

Next meeting: March 3, 2025, 1pm-3pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanie Sparacino