# Baccalaureate Core Committee

## 2021-2022 Annual Report

The Faculty Senate Baccalaureate Core Committee has three primary functions: 1) to conduct periodic reviews of existing bacc core courses continued alignment with approved category learning outcomes and relevance of assessment methods; 2) to review curricular proposals for changes to existing bacc core courses, additions of existing courses to the bacc core, or proposal of new courses for inclusion in the bacc core; and 3) develop and approve strategy and planning for the baccalaureate core. During the 2021/2022 cycle, the Committee conducted a category review of courses in the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) category. With bacc core reform efforts ongoing, and many of the Committee members involved in those efforts, the Committee had a relatively light year in terms of curricular proposals and developing/approving strategy and planning for the bacc core. Once a bacc core reform proposal is adopted by Faculty Senate, it is hoped that the expertise and capacity of the Committee will be leveraged in planning for implementation of the new bacc core.

### *Committee Membership*

The co-chairs appreciated that the Committee began fall quarter with a full membership. One member resigned mid-year to serve on the Baccalaureate Core Reform Committee instead and was not replaced. However, the relatively low number of new and change course proposals this year made the loss of a committee member manageable. It is the Committee's expectation that we will start Fall 2022 with a fully populated committee.

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| Daniel Faltesek (v. Barber), Co-Chair '22 | New Media Communications |
| Kaplan Yalcin, Co-Chair '23 | College of Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Sciences |
| Heather Arbuckle '22 | College of Science |
| Aidas Banaitis '22 | OSU-Cascades/College of Science |
| Matthew Kennedy '22 | Animal and Rangeland Sciences |
| Kelsey Emard '23 | College of Earth, Ocean, & Atmospheric Sciences |
| Jack Istok '23 | Civil & Construction Engineering |
| Lori McGraw '23 | Human Development & Family Sciences |
| Justin St. Germain '23 | Writing, Literature & Film |
| Geoffrey Barstow '24 | History, Philosophy & Religion |
| Kyle Niemeyer '24 | Mechanical, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering |
| Rene Reitsma '24 | College of Business |
| Randy Rosenberger '24 | College of Forestry |
| TBA (v. Arismendi) '24 | |

Student Members:

- TBA
- TBA

Ex-Officio Members:
Assessment & Accreditation – Heath Henry
Difference, Power & Discrimination – Nana Osei-Kofi
Ecampus – Karen Watte
Writing Intensive Curriculum – Sarah Perrault

*Executive Committee Liaison – Selina Heppell*

### *Science, Technology, and Society Category Review*

Of the 71 courses required to submit review materials for the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) category, the Committee reviewed 65 courses, with the other 6 courses electing decertification from the bacc core by the academic unit. Of the 65 courses electing review for recertification, 25 were recertified after the initial review and revisions were requested for reconsideration for the other 40. Three did not submit revised materials and were decertified, while 37 submitted revised materials. Of the 37 submitting revised materials, 34 were recertified after the second round of review and three were decertified. In summary, 59 courses were recertified and 12 were decertified.

The Committee thanks all members of the OSU community who participated in the STS category review, and for the time and care taken in preparing thoughtful review materials. The outcome ensures that STS courses serve our students well in attainment of the STS category learning outcomes.

In consideration of the bacc core reform process, the Committee, in consultation with Academic Programs and Assessment and Faculty Senate Executive Committee, has decided to pause the category review process for 2022/2023. This pause has been communicated to college designees through the Director of the Baccalaureate Core.

***Review of Bacc Core New/Change Course Proposals***

The Committee reviewed 35 new/change course proposals with 28 approvals, 5 were rolled back and not resubmitted (due to the nature of the proposals resubmission is unlikely), and 1 was withdrawn. A single proposal where materials were submitted after the end of the committee year will carry forward to the 2022-2023 year. Three of the approved courses received minimal review as they were part of the category review, nine were one-credit PAC courses, and two were continuing business from the 2020-2021 academic year. Of the approved courses nine were new additions to the university curriculum. Four of the approved courses (three of the new courses) were in the WIC category. The additions to the curriculum in areas are timely, impactful, and represent deliberate institutional growth.

Looking back to the report of this Committee from last year, our load was lighter this year and the quality of submissions was higher. The proposals rolled back and not resubmitted were perspectives proposals with upper division course numbers and expectations. This speaks to a broader effort at this institution and around the state to more accurately connect course numbers, learning outcomes, and expectations. No proposals for dual listing were received this year. The BCC thanks the OSU community for continuing to center pedagogical innovation and growth.

***Recommendations and Strategy***

The Baccalaureate Core Committee has been greatly assisted by the addition of the Baccalaureate Core Director. The Director improved functions of the committee, enabled detailed feedback and meaningful revisions during the category review process. This is not as much a recommendation as an affirmation of this change. Flowing from this we recommend the continuation of the diffusion process for category reviews with the Director and College Designees. For the sake of institutional memory, the Committee notes the strength of this process for when the wave of new proposals arrive and category reviews resume.

Evolving standards for general education courses are challenging, support for this Committee should continue. This Committee has been told numerous times by faculty that, by establishing high expectations for courses and syllabi, we have enabled productive conversations and improved the student experience. The Committee should maintain high standards for review of courses in the existing core program and the standards for inclusion in a new core should evolve to be even higher. These standards include: compliant syllabi for all course modalities at all review windows (including adding a modality), descriptions of assessment in language accessible to a general audience, and that the courses are aligned with the categories in which they are proposed for clear, substantive reasons.