

Faculty Senate

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Baccalaureate Core Committee

Annual Report 2000-01

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: John W. Lee, Chair
2000-2001 Baccalaureate Core Committee

Re: 2000 - 2001 Annual Report

The following were the major activities of the Baccalaureate Core Committee (BCC) over the past year.

1. The committee reviewed thirty-three proposals from OSU faculty members requesting curricular action. All requests were approved, sometimes after discussion and revision. In addition, three LBCC courses were approved for some category in the Bac Core. (See items #4 and #5.)

2. At the request of the Executive Committee the BCC began an extensive review of the Fitness requirement in the Baccalaureate Core last academic year. (See the 1999-2000 BCC Annual Report.) New criteria for Fitness courses were submitted to the Faculty Senate for its consideration at the November 2, 2000 Faculty Senate meeting. The proposed changes, as submitted, were approved by the Senate and are posted on the Web at http://osu.orst.edu/dept/academic/cph1998/022_BCSUMM.htm

3. The committee continued its mandate to periodically review baccalaureate core courses. The committee is reviewing one baccalaureate category per year of courses approved more than 5 years ago. This year WIC courses were reviewed. A total of eighty-five courses were reviewed and a follow-up review process will extend through Fall Term 2001. (A very few courses with special situations have a longer follow-up timetable.) The follow-up process will include a review of seven courses overlooked in the original review.

4. *Approval of Transfer Courses as Satisfying Baccalaureate Core Requirements:* The BCC discussed this difficult issue over two meetings. The topic deserves further study by the BCC. The following issues emerged in the discussions:

It is important to recognize that the committee is not being asked to review baccalaureate core courses but approve transfer courses as equivalencies.

If the BCC does not approve courses, these courses will be approved elsewhere on an ad hoc basis or by the administration - how will that affect students? What happens when the committee disapproves a course? How is it tracked, if at all? What if the committee is overruled by the administration? At what point, and in what ways, should Faculty Senate be involved in these discussions?

Is there a tracking system and expiration dates associated with these courses? What guidelines for evaluating courses should be used given that the committee will most likely be working with inadequate information?

What are the long-term implications for this process in light of the streamlining of transfers through the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) program? What about advanced placement courses completed by incoming first-year students? How might we develop a fair and appropriate process without jeopardizing student access?

5. As a result of the discussions in the foregoing item, the BCC agreed to request from Academic Programs a content

syllabus as part of every review of a community college course. This is the minimal information necessary for review. In addition, a tracking system should be initiated in order to process any course. The committee will develop new criteria (most likely a subset of the existing criteria) by which to evaluate incoming community college courses. Adjustments to the process and procedure of reviewing community college courses will be worked out in consultation with the Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs.

6. *Tracking WIC Courses Used in a Degree Program*: The BCC recommends that the graduation audit form include a box to check off on WIC completion and a blank line on which to write the WIC course used to satisfy the WIC requirement. Members of the committee are aware of lax procedures in some units regarding satisfaction of the WIC graduation requirement. The BCC will work with Academic Programs and appropriate Faculty Senate officers toward implementation of the recommendation.

7. *The OSU-Cascades Campus in Bend and the Baccalaureate Core*: The BCC assumes that students enrolled in the Cascades campus must satisfy the OSU baccalaureate core course requirements and that the BCC is responsible for reviewing and approving or disapproving such courses, just as is the case for courses on the Corvallis campus.

8. The Faculty Senate approved revisions to the BCC Standing Rules at its April 5, 2001 meeting. The primary change was to include the Writing Intensive Curriculum Program Director and the Difference, Power, and Discrimination Program Director as ex-officio, non-voting members of the BCC.

The 2000-2001 members of the Baccalaureate Core Committee were: Bonnie Avery, John Dilles, Bob Jarvis, Janet Lee, John Lee, Kurt Peters, Christine Snow, and Ex-officio members Vicki Tolar Burton and Susan Shaw.

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