

# Faculty Senate

[Faculty Senate](#) » [Committees/Councils](#) » [Baccalaureate Core Committee](#) » [Annual Reports](#) » Final Report -- 1997-98

## Baccalaureate Core Committee

Final Report -- 1997-98

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The Baccalaureate Core Committee (BCC) conducted two primary kinds of activities during the 1997-98 academic year: (1) consideration of proposals for new or revision of existing baccalaureate courses, and (2) evaluation of existing guidelines for baccalaureate course proposals. Due to the unusually large number of proposals submitted this past year (compared to under 30 in some previous years), most of the committee's effort was devoted to the first.

### EVALUATING COURSE PROPOSALS

The committee evaluated a total of 108 proposals from OSU faculty and from several surrounding Community Colleges. The number of approved courses in each category are listed as follow:

#### Writing

Writing II	1
WIC	26

#### Perspectives

Physical Sciences	8	
Western Culture		0
Cultural Diversity	8	
Literature & The Arts		8
Social Processes & Institution	3	
Difference, Power & Discrimination	4	

#### Synthesis

Contemporary Global Issues	10	
Science Technology & Society		4
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	72	

Twenty (20) proposals were rejected. Sixteen (16) were either withdrawn or pending.

### CLARIFYING BAC CORE GUIDELINES, CRITERIA AND RATIONALE

The BCC reviewed the Bac Core Criteria and Rationale stated in the most updated version of the proposal guidelines provided by Academic Affairs Office. To ensure timely response from the proposing departments and to avoid accumulation of "inactive" proposals, the BCC set a requirement of six (6) months for response time. Thus, a proposal would remain "active" for a duration of six (6) months from the date additional information/recommended changes are requested by the Academic Affairs Office. Proposals are automatically considered withdrawn if the proposing department does not provide a response to the request after six months.

The BCC worked jointly with WIC Co-ordinator, Professor Vicki Collins, to clarify the Bac Core WIC guidelines, criteria and rationale. The proposal guidelines for WIC requirements were thoroughly revised. The fact that WIC courses should be discipline courses which use writing tasks to help students learn is emphasized. Issues on variable credit WIC courses were resolved.

## BYLAWS CLARIFICATION

The committee reviewed the BCC Bylaws and proposed some changes to the Committee on Committees to clarify the qualification of BCC members.

## CONTINUING CONCERNS

There are a couple of related concerns that the BCC did not have a chance to examine due to the large proposal evaluation load last year. They are: (1) the implication of a growing number of 4 or more credit hour courses in the Bac Core, and (2) the original intents and direction of the Bac Core program. The committee thought that with the decreasing number of required credits to obtain an OSU Bachelor's degree and the increasing number of approved 4 or more credit Bac Core courses, a significant number of OSU students may not have any true "free electives" left in their programs. The Bac Core program has been in existence long enough for a "mid-term" review to ensure that: (1) the original intents of the program are preserved, (2) the program continues to head in the right direction, and (3) an optimal number of courses in each category is attained.

## COMMITTEE ROSTER

Hsiou-Lien Chen	App/Int/Hous/Merch
Anita Grunder	Geosciences
John Lee	Mathematics
David Myrold	Crop & Soil Science
Michael Scanlan	Philosophy
Shannon Smith	History
Solomon Yim	Civil/Const/Envir. Engineering

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