A Brief Announcement Regarding Baccalaureate Core Category Review
from the Baccalaureate Core Committee

Kerry Kincanon and Marion Rossi, BCC Co-Chairs

The BCC is in the final stages of completing its Category Review of Synthesis Categories. While Category Review is not a new process to the university, it was dormant for a few years during the Ad Hoc Review of the Bacc Core and while the BCC worked to define Category Learning Outcomes. The re-envisioned Category Review with attention to evidence of student learning relative to Bacc Core Category Learning Outcomes was launched last year with the Synthesis Category Review.

The BCC is most grateful to the OSU community for its participation and engagement in this Category Review. There was 100% compliance in submission of requested materials by units with Synthesis courses. Launching a new process is never without unexpected surprises, but overall the BCC is pleased with where we landed. As we hoped would result from this “pilot” process, the BCC learned a great deal from participating units to help us refine future Category Reviews. Not only do we have a much improved web mechanism for collecting information for the individual courses and a better sense of what we need to ask for from reporting units, but we also are better positioned to offer tools, resources, and professional development to support the Category Review process. The best outcome is that we are perpetuating an OSU faculty-centered process where the school/department/ and/or faculty member have control over deciding how course activities in their Bacc Core classes feed into helping students to achieve relevant Bacc Core Category Learning Outcomes. It keeps decisions about student learning at the classroom level, where they should be.

The 2013 Category Review includes the Mathematics, Speech, and Fitness categories as well as WIC classes from Agricultural Sciences, Business, and Public Health and Human Sciences. Units that support these courses are already engaged with the review process and will be submitting materials at the end of spring term, and many of those involved have participated in professional development workshops in winter and spring term. Targeted invites for spring term sessions have gone out to DPD and WIC Engineering courses as they will be reviewed in 2014. There is one more workshop for spring term on Thursday, May 24 from 2:00-3:30 and anyone who teaches a Bacc Core course or who is interested in the process is invited to attend. For more information about workshop registration, watch for details in the OSU Today email or contact Stefani Dawn, Assistant Director of Assessment in the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation.