**COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**4140 University Square South**

**April 16, 2025**

**3-4 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance**

**Faculty**:

**✓** Dr. Ann Allen (Department of Educational Studies)

**✓** Dr. Carlos Castro (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

Dr. Ann Christy (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)

**✓** Dr. Samantha Herrmann (Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology)

Mr. Mike Hogan (OSU Extension)

**✓** Dr. Neal Hooker (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)

**✓** Dr. Nicole Kwiek (College of Pharmacy)

Dr. Russell Marzette (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

Dr. Thomas Nelson (Department of Political Science)

Dr. Sue Sutherland (Department of Human Sciences)

Dr. Valarie Williams (Department of Dance)

**Staff:**

**✓** Ms. Margo Coates (College of Dentistry)

**Students**:

**✓** Mr. Charlie Mace (CGS, Physics)

**✓** Mr. Joe Malinger (IPC, Law)

**✓** Mr. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)

**✓** Ms. Mykenna Roy (USG, Biology)

**✓** Mr. Nathan Snizik (USG, International Studies)

Ms. Emily Williams (IPC, Dentistry)

**Administrator**:

**✓** Dr. W. Randy Smith (Office of Academic Affairs), Vice Chair

**Guests**:

Dr. Noelle Arnold (College of Education and Human Ecology)

Dr. Meg Daly (Office of Undergraduate Education)

Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)

Mr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)

Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)

Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)

Dr. Tara King (College of Nursing)

Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)

Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

**The meeting came to order at 3:02 PM**

**COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH**

In Sutherland’s absence, Smith will Chair this meeting. It is the last regular meeting of the academic year. Reed will be in touch to schedule meetings in May and June.

The following individuals will be rotating off the Council at the end of this summer: Carlos Castro, Ann Christy, Margo Coates, Nicole Kwiek, Charlie Mace, Joe Malinger, and Emily Williams. Smith thanked all members for their work over the academic year and gave a special thanks to the student members for their active participation.

Dean Cathann Kress, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, gave her State of the College Address on April 4, 2025. Dean Ayanna Howard, College of Engineering, is giving her State of the College Address this afternoon.

Smith attended the Higher Learning Commission’s (HLC) annual conference on April 4-7, 2025. There was considerable discussion surrounding 3-year undergraduate degrees.

Smith has convened a work group to prepare for the University’s decennial reaffirmation of accreditation in 2027. It will meet monthly going forward and will be co-led by Professor Rebecca Andridge, College of Public Health.

The University is convening several work groups to discuss the implementation of Senate Bill 1 (SB1). Smith is on work groups related to low enrollment programs (graduating 5 or few students per year) and the new civics course requirement. While conversations are ongoing, all know that Ohio State will not be adding a new 3-credit hour course to degree program. Rather, the requirement will need to be embedded in the curriculum somehow.

Andrew Urbanski, Operational Excellence Program Manager, is conducting an efficiency study of the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM).

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) hosted a meeting on mathematics compliance on April 11, 2025. Smith noted that mathematics is often a stumbling block for students trying to transfer.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH**

* **Revision to the Arts Management BA – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Arts Administration, Education, and Policy revised its Arts Management major leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree, adding ARTEDUC 5222 to the major’s core required courses and moving ARTEDUC 5688 from the major’s advanced elective courses to the core required courses list.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

* **Update to the Minor in Professional Writing – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of English updated its Minor in Professional Writing, adding course options to the Group B elective list.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

* **Update to the Sustainable Plant Systems—Controlled Environment Agriculture Specialization Bachelor of Science in Agriculture – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences updates its Sustainable Plant Systems —Controlled Environment Agriculture Specialization leading to the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Agriculture.  HORTTEC 3560T is being removed as the course is now in limbo and HCS/AGSYSMT 3586 has been approved as an alternative to HCS/AGSYSTM 3585.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

**PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS SUE SUTHERLAND AND W. RANDY SMITH**

* **Proposal to revise the undergraduate minor in Psychology – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan, Professor, Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology proposes to revise the undergraduate minor in Psychology.

Currently, the Department offers seven undergraduate minors: Biological Bases of Behavior; Clinical Psychology and Individual Differences; Development Psychology; General Psychology; Organization and Performance; Psychology Research; and Social Psychology and Personality. The largest enrollment is in General Psychology.

The Department proposes to change the name of the General Psychology Minor to the Psychology Minor and phase out the other six minors by Spring 2028. In addition to the name change, the following changes will be made to the minor’s curriculum: remove requirement of Psychology 2220; remove core areas of requirement; remove advanced core requirement; and add course level requirement. The revised Psychology Minor will require 15-credit hours (one required course and 12-credit hours at the 2000-level or higher).

The proposed changes will not only increase access to the minor but will also offer more flexibility for students to design a minor program that best fits their interests and goals, as well as more easily allow the integration of new areas within the field of psychology.

Current students across the six minors being phased out will have the option to continue in their current minor, or they may elect to switch to the Psychology Minor. Students in the current General Psychology Minor will be switched to the Psychology Minor, which should not have any negative impacts on them. Students new to the university in Autumn 2025 and beyond will only have access to the Psychology Minor.

Schoppe-Sullivan confirmed that pathways will exist within the revised minor for students to pursue specific interests.

The Council asked how students responded to the proposal. Schoppe-Sullivan replied that there are no student representatives on the Undergraduate Studies Committee, which is the body that reviewed and approved the proposal at the unit-level. She noted, however, that the proposal did receive feedback from advising staff who work closely with students. The advising staff did not share any student opposition to the proposal. The Council encouraged the proposer to add student representatives to the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Schoppe-Sullivan remarked that the removal of Psychology 2220 will increase access to the minor as the course is currently a stumbling block for students because of its math prerequisite and focus.

Smith moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved unanimously.

The Council expressed alarm that there are no student representatives on the Undergraduate Studies Committee. Smith informed the Council that there is no mandate from the Office of Academic Affairs to have student representatives on committees. Vankeerbergen noted that there are student representatives on the Arts and Sciences College Curriculum Committee, which reviewed this proposal prior to coming to this Council.

Smith remarked that Psychology is one of the largest and most high-profile departments at Ohio State.

* **Proposal to revise the undergraduate embedded certificate in Automotive Manufacturing – College of Engineering**

Guests: Ted Allen, Professor, Department of Integrated Systems Engineering; Tony Luscher, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

The College of Engineering proposes to revise the undergraduate embedded certificate in Automotive Manufacturing.

The following changes are being made to the certificate:

* Reduction of total credit hours from 15 to 12
* Addition of a new course (ISE/MECHENG/WELDENG 4610)
* Addition of three courses to the Quality and Production, Digital Manufacturing Sub-Area
* Expansion of experiential learning activities to provide more options for the capstone
* Addition of exclusions to sub-area courses
* Addition of an exception to the requirement that all courses be taken at Ohio State

Allen and Luscher informed the Council that the Certificate’s curriculum is largely dictated by Honda as it addresses their workforce needs.

The Council encouraged the proposers to consider adding a service-learning component.

The Council asked if Honda prefers minors or certificates. Luscher responded that workforce seems more interested in certificates as they are more focused and tangible. Allen added that this certificate is unique across the country as its focus is more “nuts and bolts” than at peer institutions.

Smith moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved unanimously.

**CENTER REVIEW UPDATE – PROFESSOR TARA KING**

During the 2023-24 academic year, CAA Subcommittee C was assigned the review of the Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC). Due to several factors, the presentation of the Subcommittee’s findings was delayed until the CAA meeting on December 4, 2024 when Professor Tara King presented an overview of the Center’s self-study and Subcommittee C’s report.

King presented an overall positive report from Subcommittee C but shared with the Council that the College of Arts and Sciences (ASC) did not have plans to continue funding the center. Given this development, the Council decided to table the vote on the Center’s review until clarifying talks occurred with ASC.

Subsequently, Smith and Sutherland had conversations with ASC leadership and with the members of Subcommittee C. ASC confirmed that it will no longer fund the Center at previous levels, and would like CJRC to transition from a Center to a Collaborative. While Subcommittee C did not recommend abolishing the center in its initial report, it is acknowledged that CJRC does not have funding stability. Given this development, Subcommittee C recommends extending CJRC’s center status for two more years as it transitions to a Collaborative.

Smith noted that most university-level centers report to a college dean. The college dean has the authority to change leadership and funding. Smith added that this was a difficult decision for ASC leadership given personal/professional relationships involved.

The Council asked if Collaborative is an official university term. Smith responded that it is not and added that it is a term that ASC has started to recently use.

Smith moved approval of the motion to extend CJRC’s center status for two years as it transitions to a collaborative. The motion was approved unanimously.

Smith informed the Council that a formal proposal will need to be submitted to this Council should/when the status officially changes from center to collaborative. A proposal to deactivate the Center would also need to be reviewed/approved by this Council and the University Senate.

**ULAC MOTIONS – ASSOCIATE DEAN MEG DALY**

Daly reminded members that she visited a Council meeting on February 19, 2025, to provide an update on the new General Education program (GEN), as well as present motions from the University-Level Advisory Council on General Education (ULAC).

The motions were brought forward to address bottlenecks in the course approval process. Motion 1 reconfigures the approving body for Themes courses and Motion 2 clarifies how world languages can be incorporated into the GEN. Both motions are endorsed by the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, which is the body that manages course review for the GEN.

Daly informed the Council that Motion 1 is based on feedback from faculty and staff who find the current process clunky, time-consuming, and unfocused. Motion 1 will decrease the number of people on the review panel, but the review panel will still contain appropriate expertise. Daly noted that she understands the concern surrounding fewer people on the panel, but people are not volunteering their service on the panel. If problems arise, the panel membership can be revised in the future.

The Council asked if there is an appeal process if a GEN course submission is denied. Daly responded that appeals are handled by revisions—courses are not denied.

Smith moved approval of the recommendations; they were approved unanimously.

Smith informed the Council that he and Daly are meeting with representatives from Michigan State University to discuss Ohio State’s GE revision process, as that university considers revising its general education offering.

The Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith

Katie Reed