

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

April 2, 2025

3-5 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:

Mr. Chris Adams (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Ms. Shereen Agrawal (Center for Software Innovation)
Dr. Anil Arya (Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems)

Dr. Nick Basta (Environmental Sciences Graduate Program)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Ms. Stephanie Elliott (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Gene Folden (Department of Human Sciences)
Mr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Rob Griffiths (Ohio State Online)
Ms. Erika Gunn (Office of University Exploration)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
Dr. Kelly Malone (Environmental Sciences Graduate Program)
Dr. Brian Mittendorf (Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems)
Ms. Kathy Northern (Moritz College of Law)
Ms. Anne Ralph (Moritz College of Law)
Dr. Tasha Snyder (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

Sutherland informed the Council that she will miss the last Council meeting of the academic year due to international travel. Reed will be in touch soon to schedule summer meetings of the Council.

Provost Bellamkonda is attending the Faculty Cabinet meeting on April 4, 2025, to discuss state and federal matters.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Academic unit reviews and accreditation visits continue throughout the semester. Recently, teams have visited the Department of Management and Human Resources, the College of Public Health, and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK) conducts reviews of the centers/institutes that report directly to ERIK. Smith attended the review of the Center for Quantum Information Science and Engineering on March 24, 2025, on behalf of this Council.

Susan Cole and Alan Kalish, Co-Chairs of the SEI (Student Evaluation of Instruction) Re-envisioning Committee attended the Council of Deans meeting on March 26, 2025, to give an update on the SEI revision process. The proposed revised SEI is moving forward, and there are over 900 sections that will do a test-run this spring. Smith noted that the SEI is just one of many ways to evaluate teaching.

The research component of the Sustainability Institute is now being administered by ERIK. Curricular development is being administered by the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) through Smith.

Smith and Shanna Jaggars, Assistant Vice Provost in the Office of Undergraduate Education, are co-chairing a group that is focusing on developing a better relationship between Ohio State and Columbus City Schools (CCS). The group will submit a report to University leadership. Smith expects the report to include a recommendation to hire a liaison between CCS and OSU.

On March 21, 2025, the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) convened a discussion on transfer compliance. Ohio State is hosting the meeting at the Fawcett Center.

Smith is convening a coordinating committee to prepare for the University's decennial re-accreditation re-affirmation in Spring 2027. The group's first meeting is on March 31, 2025.

Smith is attending the annual Higher Learning Commission Conference from April 4-7, 2025, in Chicago, IL.

Jennifer Schlueter began her appointment as Dean and Director of OSU Marion on March 17, 2025.

Smith shared the statement made by the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) at the Council meeting on March 19, 2025, with Provost Bellamkonda. Provost Bellamkonda plans to respond but will need time. The CGS statement will be included in the Council's March 19, 2025 meeting minutes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Minor Changes to the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Program – College of Dentistry**

The College of Dentistry updated its Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene program. Changes include the following: combining content of DENTHYG 2170 and DENTHYG 3170 into one course and the transition of four full-semester courses into four 7-week sessions.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

PROPOSAL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE A – PROFESSORS CARLOS CASTRO, ANN ALLEN, AND VALARIE WILLIAMS; MS. MYKENNA ROY AND MR. NATHAN SNIZIK

- **Proposal to establish The Ohio State University Center for Software Innovation – Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge**

Guest: Shereen Agrawal, Executive Director, Center for Software Innovation

The Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK) proposes to establish The Ohio State University Center for Software Innovation.

The mission of the Center for Software Innovation (CSI) is to advance the learning, career, and entrepreneurial opportunities in digital innovation for the campus and community. The CSI will achieve this aim by equipping individuals with the skills, knowledge, resources, and opportunity to thrive in the

growing digital economy. This is particularly relevant as digital and software technology becomes an increasing part of all industries and sectors.

The CSI plans to achieve its mission through initiatives across four pillars: Learning, Career, Entrepreneurship, and Community.

- Learning Pillar: The CSI will provide interdisciplinary learning opportunities, such as cohort programs, new courses, and modular curricula. One current example of a cohort program is the Integrated Business and Engineering-Software Innovation (IBE-SI) honors track.
- Career Pillar: The CSI will support students, alumni, and the community to grow in technology careers by doing things like providing exposure to tech related roles and resources to prepare for application processes. The CSI is also piloting a learn + work program where students are working to build and launch specific products while receiving relevant instruction.
- Entrepreneurship Pillar: The CSI is working with campus partners to foster new ventures in software innovation. For example, the CSI helped launch the Techstars Columbus accelerator, which offers funding and mentorship to early-stage ventures.
- Community Pillar: The CSI is leading initiatives like the *Construct I/O: The Builder's Summit*, an annual conference that connects students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the broader community.

The CSI provides a variety of ways for faculty to be engaged depending on the level of interest and the match of needs and skills. Faculty members interested in an official designation will apply and be assigned as a fellow or affiliated. Faculty do not need an official designation to participate in community events such as informal seminars, conferences, and events.

Students will interact and engage with CSI through courses, career development workshops and opportunities, seminars, conference planning and execution, selected invitations to participate in the Advisory Council, and learn + work programs.

The CSI is led by an Executive Director who is responsible for implementing strategies for carrying out the vision of the Center, overseeing its daily operations, fostering industry partnerships, expanding experiential learning opportunities, and supporting entrepreneurial activities, in collaboration with the software innovation incubator. In addition to an Executive Director, there will be a CSI Oversight Committee with a minimum of 2/3 faculty representation.

The CSI reports directly to the Executive Vice President for Research, Knowledge, and Innovation and dotted line reports to the Provost and Executive Vice President of the University.

The establishment of the CSI is supported by a \$110 million gift from the Timashev Family Foundation. The gift provides essential funding for establishing key components of the CSI and also recurring endowment income to support the sustainability of operations.

The proposal received many letters of support from internal and external bodies.

Castro informed the Council that Agrawal responded to questions submitted by Subcommittee A related to student and faculty engagement.

The Council asked if the Center would provide internship opportunities for students. Agrawal applied in the affirmative, telling the Council that students could intern directly with the CSI and/or the CSI will help students with internship placements.

The Council asked if there are any peer comparisons. Agrawal responded that the CSI's four pillar approach is unique. Many peer programs are focused on entrepreneurial skills rather than academic programming. The Center took aspects of peer programs and combined them into the CSI. Agrawal added that the gift from the Timashev Family Foundation gave the Center a huge advantage by giving it a strong start.

A student Council remarked that the proposal is "cool" and innovative. Agrawal added that students seem very excited by the opportunities surrounding the CSI.

Castro moved to vote on the proposal with the amendments related to faculty and student engagement. Sutherland moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved unanimously.

Smith noted that the proposal will now need to be reviewed by the University Senate. He added that Agrawal has been a strong leader for this high-profile center.

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

- **Proposal to establish a Microbiome Sciences Specialization – Environmental Sciences Graduate Program**

Guests: Nick Basta, Co-Director, Environmental Sciences Graduate Program; Kelly Malone, Graduate Program Manager, Environmental Sciences Graduate Program

The Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (ESGP) proposes to establish a Microbiome Sciences Specialization. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School/Council on Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The specialization will provide graduate student training in Microbiome Science applied to Interdisciplinary Environmental Science Topics. Graduates from the program will have many career opportunities in the expanding field and the program will help meet workplace demand.

The specialization will require 9-12 credit hours in addition to the ESGP core. Students will take two foundational courses and two elective courses. The two learning outcomes of the specialization are as follows:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of Environmental Microbiology
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of Microbiome Informatics

ESGP anticipates an initial enrollment of 5-10 students with the hope that enrollment will increase each year.

ESGP would like the specialization to go into effect in Autumn 2025.

Basta remarked to the Council that the Center of Microbiome Science is a gem, and its faculty are excited for this new specialization.

Basta noted that Microbiome Science is a field of discovery and there is a demand for graduate students with this background.

The Council asked if the program considered offering a certificate so more graduate students can participate. Basta replied that the specialization is tailored for ESGP students, but there is an opportunity for growth. Since ESGP is an interdisciplinary program, students are already encouraged to collaborate with other units to help leverage a broader student community.

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

Smith informed the Council that Basta is a strong leader for the ESGP program.

- **Proposal to establish an undergraduate minor in Couple and Family Therapy – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Gene Folden, Professor, Department of Human Sciences

The Department of Human Sciences proposes to establish an undergraduate minor in Couple and Family Therapy.

The Council and Family Therapy (CFT) minor offers an applied focus on couples and families, and foundational skills and techniques of practice that students can chose to pursue in graduate school. The minor will prepare students for further graduate study in the fields of couple and family therapy, social work, counseling, and broadly interpersonally focused counseling and/or therapy.

Participants will need to complete a minimum of 12-credit hours (9-hours of required courses and 3-hours of elective courses). The minor does have one required prerequisite (HDFS 2200).

The minor can be completed in person, online, or hybrid.

The Department would like an effective AU25 date,

Folden informed the Council that the Department felt that the minor's curriculum was missing a course on stress intervention. The Department is now developing a course with that focus and it will be added as an elective option.

Sutherland moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved with one abstention.

- **Proposal to establish an undergraduate minor in Law and Public Policy – Interdisciplinary Programs**

Guests: Chris Adams, Director of Student Services and Programs, John Glenn College of Public Affairs; Kent Barnett; Dean, Moritz College of Law; Rob Greenbaum, Associate Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs; Kathy Northern, Associate Dean, Mortiz College of Law; Anne Ralph, Associate Dean, Mortiz College of Law

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs and the Mortiz College of Law propose to establish an undergraduate minor in Law and Public Policy. The minor will be administered by the John Glenn College of Public Affairs (JGC).

The Law and Public Policy minor has five goals, which provide an interdisciplinary set of knowledge and skills. Upon successful completion of the minor, students will be able to:

1. Describe public policy and the policy-making processes within the United States governments.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of how the legal system and associated institutions impact the public affairs environment.
3. Identify the legal basis for the practice of public affairs.
4. Develop skills both as a professional and as a citizen, to participate in the development and implementation of public law and policy.
5. Gain an introduction to an applied area of interest in law and public affairs.

Participants must complete a minimum of 15-credit hours (12-credit hours of required courses and 3-credit hours of elective courses).

The primary audience for the minor will be undergraduate students in the John Glenn College and across the university who want to expand their knowledge of law and policy.

The College of Arts and Sciences offers broader undergraduate minors that also focus on legal studies. The proposed minor in Law and Public Policy focus on the relationship between law and public policy and its emphasis on applied coursework will make it substantially different from existing minors.

The program anticipates an initial enrollment of 15-20 students with an eventual enrollment of 75.

The minor will be evaluated annually by JGC.

Letter of concurrence were received except from the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The minor leverages an existing, successful partnership between JGC and Law. This will be the first undergraduate program offering by the Moritz College of Law. Dean Kent Barnett has experience offering undergraduate programming at other law schools.

The Council asked if students could petition to add courses. Greenbaum applied in the affirmative.

The Council asked how this minor will interact with the Chase Center. Adams replied that it is hard to know if there will be overlap in content as the Chase Center does not currently have any curriculum in the system. He added that students can pursue more than one minor, though. Barnett added that the Chase Center is more focused on civics and leadership philosophy while this minor will be more focused on legal aspects of the law. Greenbaum remarked that both JGC and Law are eager to partner with the Chase Center.

The Council asked about the non-concurrence from SBS. Smith replied that SBS is concerned with duplication of content and potential loss of enrollment. Adams replied that the Legal Foundation of Society Minor largely caters to students within the College of Arts and Sciences. Currently, there is only one JGC student in the minor. Smith added that no one unit owns curriculum.

The Council asked if other law schools offer undergraduate programming. Northen responded that a handful of law schools offer undergraduate minors because students are showing an interest in applied law education. Ralph added that the approval of this major could have an impact on enrollment at Moritz as the American Bar Association (ABA) has allowed an exemption to allow more Ohio State undergraduate students to attend Moritz without the LSAT. She noted that this exemption program already exists, but this would expand the number of students allowed.

The proposers noted that this minor may help students determine if they want to go to law school.

Adams confirmed that there is sufficient staffing for this minor—even when/if enrollment hits 75.

Greenbaum informed the Council that the program expected initial interest from students in JGC, but that there will be eventual interest from students outside of JGC.

Sutherland moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved with one abstention.

Smith told the Council that the Office of Academic Affairs will convene discussions between colleges and the Moritz College of Law should Law want to expand its undergraduate program offerings. These types of discussions are a big portion of Smith's portfolio. He added that new faculty are interested in interdisciplinary offerings, which can be difficult to navigate during development.

Smith added that this Council needs to have a conversation on minors, certificates, and micro-credentials. What are the differences? Are certificates being successfully offered? Are these the right categories?

- **Proposal to establish an undergraduate minor in Accounting – Fisher College of Business**

Guests: Anil Arya, Chair, Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems; Brian Mittendorf, Professor, Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems

The Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems proposes to establish an undergraduate minor in Accounting.

The objective of the new minor is to provide students with an opportunity to expand their knowledge, complement their major/specialization students with a minor in accounting, and better differentiate themselves in the job market. The minor is appropriate for students who do not aspire for a career in accounting but still want to seek financial knowledge to enhance their careers and businesses.

The minor requires the successful completion of a minimum of 15 credit hours (9 required credit hours and 6 elective credit hours).

The minor will meet an industry demand for accounting expertise as the accounting workforce ages and there is a decline in student interest in the field. The Department anticipates an initial enrollment of 45-60 students with a potential enrollment of 200 students.

Similar programs are offered at peer institutions.

The Department would like an effective term of Autumn 2025.

Arya and Mittendorf clarified to the Council that all Fisher College of Business (FCOB) students earn the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA). Rather than majors, FCOB offers specializations (i.e., a specialization in Human Resources).

The Council asked if there is concern that students will move away from the specialization in Accounting to the Accounting minor. Mittendorf responded that the Accounting minor will not properly prepare students for the Certified Public Accountants (CPA) examination, which is required to be a practicing accountant. Arya added that the new minor will primarily serve students in other specializations who would like exposure to accounting.

The Council asked if course prerequisites will be updated to allow Accounting minor students to enroll. Mittendorf responded in the affirmative.

Greenbaum remarked that there are huge needs for accountants in the public sector. He asked if there are plans to market the minor to students outside of FCOB. Arya responded that non-FCOB students are welcome to pursue the minor, but that extra planning would be needed because of all the course prerequisites.

Sutherland moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved by all.

Smith informed the Council that FCOB does an excellent job of scanning for workforce needs.

ANNUAL COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS PRESENTATION – MS. STEPHANIE ELLIOTT

Elliott presented the annual College Credit Plus presentation to the Council. Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program allows students to earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities, while in high school. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. The program started in 2015 and has grown in popularity state-wide from an initial 7,000 participants to the current 80,000 participants.

CCP students at Ohio State are referred to as Academy students. Academy students can take classes in person or online. Classes are available at Columbus and the four regional campuses. Mathematics, English, and Latin are popular classes among Academy students. The Academy admissions process is mirrored to Ohio State's admissions process (competitive admissions). Most Academy students come from four school districts: Dublin City School District, Olentangy Local School District, Columbus City Schools, and St. Charles Preparatory School.

Elliott provided data on CCP enrollment trends at Ohio State, average GPAs of Academy students, New First Year Students (NFYS) enrolling with credit, and retention/graduation rates of Academy students.

Sutherland invited the Council to discuss this presentation. Discussion included the following:

- Reasons why students do not participate in CCP at Ohio State: competitive admissions, transportation issues, other programming offered at high school such as Advanced Placement, and pathway programs available at Columbus State Community College.
- The Council noted that it would be interesting to see a school's CCP participation rate in comparison to its population.
- Elliott noted that there is a lot of networking among CCP students and families. Students tend to participate in the same programs as their friends and siblings.
- Some high schools offer embedded courses at their locations. Smith noted that these teachers have to be credentialed.
- OSU offers two courses in high schools. Both courses are offered at a regional campus.
- The Council noted that it would be interesting to hear what majors Academy students pursue. Elliott responded that, anecdotally, many Academy students major in engineering or a pre-health field.
- Faculty are NOT notified that a student is enrolled through CCP. Students are expected to act like college-level students.
- Elliott reported that student engagement varies widely. Some students only engage online, others participate in Academy-sponsored events. CCP students are eligible to join student organizations and pursue research, but they are not eligible for work-study appointments.

- Elliott noted that engagement with Columbus City Schools (CCS) is a work in progress. CCS offers the Seniors to Sophomores program, which is a highly selective, dual enrollment program for CCS seniors. Ohio State sponsors the annual Seniors to Sophomores End of Year Celebration.
- Smith informed the Council that Ohio has a very different dual enrollment than other states as the program on Ohio is state-mandated and free for all students.

Sutherland thanked Elliott for the presentation.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed