

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

April 22, 2026

3-5 PM

MINUTES

Attendance

Faculty:

- Dr. Ann Allen (Department of Educational Studies)
- ✓ Dr. Wendy Bowles (College of Nursing)
- ✓ Dr. Gary Gao (OSU Extension)
- ✓ Dr. Samantha Herrmann (Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology)
- ✓ Dr. Neal Hooker (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
- ✓ Dr. Albert Isaacs (Department of Neurosurgery)
- ✓ Dr. Russell Marzette (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
- Dr. Thomas Nelson (Department of Political Science)
- ✓ Dr. Eugenia Romero (Department of Spanish and Portuguese)
- ✓ Dr. Sue Sutherland (Department of Human Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Valarie Williams (Department of Dance)

Staff:

- ✓ Ms. Ericka Gunn (University Exploration)

Students:

- Mr. Angad Dhillon (IPC, Medicine)
- ✓ Mr. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)
- ✓ Ms. Mykenna Roy (USG, Biology)
- ✓ Mr. Nathan Snizik (USG, International Studies)
- Mr. Andy Vance (CGS, Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

- Dr. Anika Anthony (Drake Institute on Teaching and Learning)
- Dr. Ashley Cetnar (Department of Radiation Oncology)
- Dr. Carmen Digiovine (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)
- Dr. Cody Grabbe (Undergraduate Admissions)
- Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
- Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)
- Dr. Marat Khafizov (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
- Ms. Elizabeth Marsch (College of Arts and Sciences)

Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Ms. Vicki Melnick (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Sandra Metzler (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Dr. Maria Mirti (Graduate School)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Robert Siston (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Dr. Moetiz Samad (Department of Human Sciences)
Dr. Fred Tabung (Department of Internal Medicine)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

The following proposals will be on the agenda of the University Senate meeting on April 23, 2026: proposal to establish a Master of Science in Medical Physics; proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Business; and the proposal to establish the OSU Institute on Aging.

Two additional CAA meetings have been scheduled. The meetings will be held on April 27, 2026, and May 28, 2026.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The College Credit Plus Office will hire another advisor to help support its 500+ students.

Academic program reviews and accreditation site visits continue throughout the month of April. Recently, there have been teams on campus to evaluate the Department of Arts Administration, Education, and Policy; Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts, and the Department of Urology. The Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP) was on campus last week to look at Ohio State's teacher educator prep programs.

Griffiths and Smith continue to meet with various groups to discuss workforce development and experiential learning.

Columbus State Community College is hosting the Central Ohio Compact on April 24, 2026.

There is interest in having certificates available for Ohio State staff.

Smith thanked the Council for all their work, particularly during the end of the semester rush.

The Office of Academic Affairs is working with the Board of Trustees on the course approval process mandated by House Bill 96.

SIMPLE SYLLABUS UPDATE – PROFESSORS AJIT CHAUDHARI AND SUE SUTHERLAND

Chaudhari and Sutherland presented an overview of how Senate Bill 1 (SB1) redefines “syllabus” and creates specific reporting requirements. The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) and the Office of Technology and Digital Innovation (OTDI) selected SimpleSyllabus to meet the requirements and charged the Simple Syllabus Implementation Committee (SSIC) with how to set it up. Chaudhari and Sutherland shared the issues addressed so far by SSIC as well as next steps and timelines.

It should be noted that all Ohio public institutions chose to use SimpleSyllabus.

Chaudhari and Sutherland invited the Council to ask questions. Discussion included the following:

- It will be helpful to discover how students use SimpleSyllabus.
- The expectation is that completion of the SimpleSyllabus is done by the instructor of record. SSIC welcomes feedback on if that will be too heavy of a lift for graduate teaching associates.
- Automated fields are pulled from the Student Information System (SIS), which means that it is critical that information is accurate.
- There is a unique SimpleSyllabus for each course section.
- SSCI is working with OTDI to see if a report can be generated that will show what courses are missing SimpleSyllabus.
- Trainings will be available for instructors.

Smith thanked Chaudhari and Sutherland for the discussion. If the Council wants an update, they can be invited to a meeting during the 2026-27 academic year.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROBERT GRIFFITHS

- **Change to the Microbiology BS program – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Microbiology changed the Microbiology major leading to the Bachelor of Science. Language was updated to elective courses to reduce student confusion and align with the new degree planner system. The elective courses statement now reads: “Microbiology majors must have at least 6 credits of major elective courses at the 4000-level or higher”. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change to the Hospitality Management minor – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences changed the Hospitality Management minor. Consumer Sciences and Hospitality Management 3620 has been added as a new online, high impact practices course fulfilling the GE Lived Environments theme to Part B—elective courses. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change to the Consumer and Family Financial Services major – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences changed the Consumer and Family Financial Services major. Consumer Sciences 3960 has been added as a new course to the major in Group A—Consumer Economics. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change to the Human Development and Family Studies major – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences changed the Human Development and Family Studies major. Human Development and Family Science 3340, an online GE themes course for Traditions, Transformations, and Cultures, and HDFS 3900, a Lived Environments Theme and High Impact Practices course has been added as Group B elective courses. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change to the Sport Industry major – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences changed the Sport Industry major. Consumer Sciences and Hospitality Management, and Consumer Sciences and Fashion and Retail Studies 5780 have been added to Group B—elective courses. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Professional Golf Management Pre 1+3 Pathway – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Ohio State ATI revised the Professional Golf Management Pre 1+3 Pathway. The revision aligns the pathway with the current GE, as well as the related BS program on Columbus campus. Revisions include incorporation of current GE courses and the college's current course requirements, as well as the removal of a Columbus campus specific course. These changes resulted in a reduction of total credit hours to 31 and more course choices. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

SENATE BILL 1 LOW ENROLLMENT PROGRAM DEACTIVATIONS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Proposal to deactivate the Technical Education and Training major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Education – College of Education and Human Ecology**

- **Proposal to deactivate the World Language Education major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Education – College of Education and Human Ecology**
- **Proposal to deactivate the Agricultural Systems Management major leading to the Associate of Science – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**
- **Proposal to deactivate the Community Leadership major leading to the Associate of Science – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**
- **Proposal to deactivate the Environment and Natural Resources major leading to the Associate of Science – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guest: Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science

Ohio Senate Bill 1 mandates public colleges and universities to eliminate undergraduate programs that average fewer than 5 graduates annually over any 3-year period. Universities may petition for a temporary or conditional waiver if they merge programs, require more time to meet thresholds, or intend to phase out the program.

In September 2025, Ohio State submitted its waivers to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). In March 2026, ODHE sent its decisions. The decisions did not include rationales, and there is no appeal process.

Programs that must be deactivated need to do so by August 1, 2026. To meet the August 1 deadline, the deactivations will need to be on the agenda of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research and Student Life Committee meeting on May 21, 2026.

The College of Education and Human Ecology must deactivate two programs as part of the low enrollment program review: the Technical Education and Training major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Education and the World Language Education major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Education. All current students in the program will be taught out.

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences must deactivate three programs as part of the low enrollment program review: the Agricultural Systems Management major leading to the Associate of Science, the Community Leadership major leading to the Associate of Science, and the Environment and Natural Resources major leading to the Associate of Science. All current students in the program will be taught out.

Smith informed the Council that both colleges did submit conditional waiver requests for these programs, but the requests were denied by ODHE.

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

Osborne informed the Council that pathways will still exist at ATI, but students will no longer receive a credential. The College is investigating credentialing options.

Sutherland confirmed that there are alternative options at Ohio State to get the technical teaching licensure, though there are no longer any options leading to a bachelor's degree. The College is also investigating credentialing alternatives.

**PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE A – PROFESSORS TOM NELSON, ANN ALLEN, AND ALBERT ISAACS;
MS. MYKENNA ROY AND MR. NATHAN SNIZIK**

- **Proposal to establish a major in Integrated Arts and Sciences – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Elizabeth Marsch, Director of Distance Education, College of Arts and Sciences; Andrew Martin, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Bernadette Vankeerbergen, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences proposes to establish a major in Integrated Arts and Sciences, leading to the Bachelor of Arts. The major will be administered jointly between the College of Arts and Sciences and Ohio State Online (OSO) with entry through OSO.

Students who are admitted to the fully online major gain a robust background in liberal studies while learning how to leverage it to help meet personal, academic, and professional goals. It is designed to provide both breadth and depth with coursework taken across multiple Arts and Sciences disciplines.

The goal of the proposed major is to provide an “on-ramp” for students who have left higher education for some time period who have amassed significant (30+) credit hours towards a Bachelor of Arts but left higher education before completing their degree. These students are often referred to as stop-out students. In the state of Ohio, nearly 80,000 residents have earned more than 60 credit hours without completing a degree.

There are two major hurdles that prevent former students from returning to school and completing their undergraduate degrees: 1.) the lack of availability of online asynchronous course offerings that fit in their schedule and 2.) no clear path towards a degree that aligns with their personal and professional goals. The goal of this major is to develop a program populated with asynchronous courses across a range of disciplines and a clear structure that allows the student to make progress and complete their degree.

Major admission requirements include the following:

- New transfer students or former Ohio State students who have been stopped out for a minimum of 3 years from any institution of higher education
- Students must have previously earned between 30-90 semester credits.
- Students with more than 90 credits are not eligible to be in the major, even if they otherwise meet the new transfer or stop-out requirement.

- The program is not open to new students in their first college experience post-high school graduation, even if a student has earned 30+ credits through College Credit Plus or AP, CLEP, etc.

The degree requires a minimum of 121 credit hours. The major itself requires 30-credit hours with a minimum of 15-credit hours earned at Ohio State. Students must select coursework in at least three of the five domains. The five domains are: Visual and Performing Arts, Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural and Mathematical Sciences, and World Languages.

Two new courses are being developed for the major: a course that will serve as a re-introduction to higher education and a capstone experience that will serve as a reflection on the major experience.

The University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Wright State University, University of Toledo, and Purdue University offer similar liberal arts programs.

The program anticipates an enrollment of approximately 50 students in its first year.

An assessment plan and letters of concurrence were provided.

Martin told the Council that developing the proposal was a very collaborative process.

The Council asked if the program will accept any workforce development credit. Martin responded that the program is interested in this but would like to get the program running first.

The Council asked if there is a time limit for how long a student can be in the program. Marsch responded in the negative, explaining that student pace is different. The goal of the program is degree completion. Since the student population for this major is distinct, it will not go against President Bellamkonda's time-to-degree initiative.

The Council asked if the program is concerned about public criticism of the liberal arts and return on investment (ROI). The proposers responded that the College of Arts and Sciences (ASC) understands how to market a liberal arts major and Ohio State Online did provide a market analysis.

The Council remarked that the world language requirement can be intimidating to people in the workforce. The proposers agreed and said that the College can work with students on course substitutions.

The Council asked why the proposers decided to develop a liberal arts major rather than developing online versions of existing majors. Martin responded that current ASC programs do not have enough online course options. If the Integrated Arts and Sciences major is successful, though, the College may look into developing more online majors.

The proposers confirmed that the major is open to students who previously majored in a program outside of Arts and Sciences.

The Council expressed concern that there is no workforce development component to this major.

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

- **Proposal to create a major in Assistive Technology and Accessibility – College of Medicine**

Guest: Carmen Digiovine, Professor-Clinical, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (SHRS) proposes to create an online major in Assistive Technology and Accessibility.

The major in Assistive Technology and Accessibility (ATA) will offer a distinctive educational experience that prepares students to support individuals with disabilities through the thoughtful application of assistive technology and inclusive design. The program will feature an interdisciplinary curriculum that spans mobility, communication, computer access, environmental control, recreation, transportation, mental health, and cognitive support. Students will learn to evaluate user needs, apply evidence-based practices, and design technology-supported solutions that reduce barriers and enhance engagement in everyday life.

The total credit hours of the degree are 120-127, including the completion of a minor or certificate. All courses are offered online except for two required courses that are currently only offered in person. SHRS is working with those units to see if online options can be offered.

The program expects an initial enrollment of 15 students with the possibility of increasing to over 100 students by 2031.

SHRS intend to pursue accreditation through the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Certification is required to become an Assistive Technology Professional after graduation.

There is an MOU with Ohio State Online.

Digiovine confirmed that this major will not replace the existing certificate in Assistive Technology and Accessibility. This major was developed in part based on the success of the existing certificate.

Digiovine informed the Council that the program will focus on the application of research in practice—it will not focus on research skills. He also told the Council that there is no current pathway from academia to industry.

The Council asked if traditional students can be admitted to the program. Digiovine replied in the affirmative but added that the target audience is working professionals as the ATA field is typically discovered in the workplace.

Students will be admitted through Ohio State Online.

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

PROPOSAL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE B – PROFESSORS SAMANTHA HERRMANN, GARY GAO, AND EUGENIA ROMERO; MS. ERICKA GUNN, MR. ANDREW MILES

- **Proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering – College of Engineering**

Guests: Marat Khafizov, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Sandra Metzler, Professor-Clinical, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Robert Siston, Chair, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering proposes to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering.

Ohio has been a manufacturing center of the US nuclear industry, including the development and deployment of nuclear reactors, nuclear equipment manufacturers, space nuclear applications, and uranium enrichment. Despite this leadership position in the industry and being the seventh most populated state in the US, Ohio does not offer a nuclear engineering (NE) undergraduate major at any of its universities. Currently, Ohio State offers a PhD in Nuclear Engineering and an undergraduate NE minor.

The proposed undergraduate program will serve not only as a feeder to Ohio State's graduate program but also provide a pipeline of qualified people with the technical background required to support the regrowth of Ohio's nuclear industry, while also supporting key workforce development areas designated by the State. The degree will provide the first step to a number of career opportunities including: designing, constructing and operation nuclear power plants; designing and undertaking nuclear aerospace missions; defense related positions in one of the military services; obtaining certification as a health physicist in collaboration with the OSU medical school; advanced degrees leading to research opportunities at research laboratories, private institutions, and universities; officer in military service; radiologist or radiologic technician; and nuclear reactor regulation.

Seven new courses are in development, including a two semester capstone series. Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning with the Ohio State's 500-kilowatt nuclear reactor as well as a radiologic instrumentation laboratory. The proposed program was designed to be consistent with ABET accreditation standards.

The NE program will be administered as a limited-space program that uses the College of Engineering's Admission to Major process. Students will begin as pre-nuclear engineering, complete core eligibility courses, and then apply to the program. To help with the transition in the first few years, the Department will admit the first classes of students in the major as students electing to switch into the NE major from other majors in the College of Engineering. The program expects an initial cohort of 40 students.

Current NE faculty include eight full-time faculty (excluding two emeritus faculty) who are currently available to teach undergraduate courses. During the first two years of the program, it is expected that three additional faculty will be added to the program to accommodate expanding teaching assignments.

If approved at all levels, the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering will submit a proposal to change its name to reflect the new undergraduate offering.

An assessment plan and letters of support were provided.

The proposers informed the Council that the undergraduate minor has been a success.

The proposers shared that the Department is already in the process of hiring new faculty, which shows clear support from the College.

The Council asked the proposers if the NE program will move to direct admissions with the College of Engineering. The proposers said that the program will do so once it is settled.

The proposers confirmed that current or new students will have the opportunity to transfer into the NE program. They added that the initial cohort of students will be small.

The proposers commented that there are clear workforce and student demands. Peer programs outside of Ohio are successful.

The Council asked if the timeline to degree is accurate. Can a student really complete the program in four years? The proposers responded that the courseload is heavy, but the major is comparable to other programs in the College of Engineering. Curriculum maps were provided to show how the program can be completed in four years.

The Council noted that there may be a duplication error listed on the advising sheet. The proposers will double-check.

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

Since this is a new degree, the proposal will now go to the University Senate in Autumn 2026.

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

- **Proposal to establish a PhD in Medical Physics – College of Medicine**

Guests: Ashley Cetnar, Associate Professor-Clinical, Department of Radiation Oncology

The Department of Radiation Oncology proposes to establish a PhD in Medical Physics. This proposal was reviewed and approved by the Graduate School /Council on Academic Affairs Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The proposal aligns with the Master of Science in Medical Physics that was approved by this Council at its meeting on March 4, 2026. The mission of the PhD in Medical Physics is to inspire future leaders in medical physics to transform healthcare by training experts who conduct high-quality research, collaborate effectively, and apply profound understanding to advance the field.

The PhD curriculum has been designed to integrate scientific knowledge, technical skills, and clinical experience. The core didactic curriculum proposed is a 5-semester course sequence with foundational courses, clinical practicum, and research. After the qualifying examinations, students will focus on their independent research studies with their advisor for the creation of new knowledge in the field for the advanced degree. The candidate examination will be used to finalize the topic and scope of the students' independent research for their dissertation. At least 90 credit hours are required for completion with the expectation of completion with dissertation and defense between five and six years for full-time students.

The program expects an initial enrollment of 2 students with the enrollment increasing to 8 students by year four.

An assessment plan and budget were provided.

The effective term is Autumn 2028.

The Council urged Cetnar to consider a single, consolidated exam rather than double assessment as double assessment is stressful for students. Cetnar said that the program would consider the request.

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

- **Proposal to add a Population Science and Data Integration (PSDI) Research Emphasis to the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program – Interdisciplinary Programs**

Guest: Fred Tabung, Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

The Department of Medical Oncology proposes to add a Population Science and Data Integration (PSDI) Research Emphasis to the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program. This proposal was reviewed and approved by the Graduate School /Council on Academic Affairs Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The PSDI emphasis area will train graduate students to generate novel hypotheses and design innovative studies in biomedical research by integrating environmental factors external to the human host with factors endogenous to the host. Such integration provides a more holistic understanding of the determinants of health and disease and enables the design of more effective intervention strategies that consider a range of factors.

The PSDI curriculum covers foundational concepts as well as specialized topics that allow students to integrate knowledge across domains. The coursework covers four core areas: 1.) Introduction to population health sciences, biostatistics, and epidemiology, 2.) Biology of disease, multi-omics, and health determinants, 3.) Environmental and lifestyle influences on health, and 4.) Data integration and computational health science. Core courses and electives have been identified for each core area. In addition, a seminar course will be designed to cover each of the four core areas in a single course to be

offered in the fall semester and expose PSDI students to research in their core areas, early in the program.

Students will receive the designation of PSDI Research Emphasis after completing all BSGP required courses, and at least 12 credit hours of the PSDI curriculum, which includes nine credit hours of PSDI core courses and 3 credit hours of the PSDI seminar course.

The effective term is Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to establish a Sport Industry undergraduate minor – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Moetiz Samad, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Department of Human Sciences

The Department of Human Sciences proposes to establish a Sport Industry undergraduate minor.

The industry of sport remains embedded in all facets of society and is closely intertwined within the fields of business, communication, and related fields. Skills in the implementation and oversight of sport have application in the careers of those whose current academic objectives align within the Fisher College of Business, the School of Communication, and other programs.

The minor will require 15 credit hours (two required courses and three elective courses). The two required courses will cover the skills of management, leadership, organizational theory, consumer behavior, and career readiness. The additional elective courses will provide opportunities for students to complement their major degree from a sport focus with an emphasis in legal aspects of sport, college sport trends, marketing, branding, and licensing.

An assessment plan was provided.

Samad shared with the Council that the Sport Industry major has been successful, and there has been student demand for a minor option.

Samad informed the Council that the minor focuses on U.S. sports.

The Council asked if a student could count an internship towards the minor. Samad replied that this may be allowed in the future, but the option is not available yet. He added that assignments do have experiential learning components.

The Council asked if the program would allow substitutions for students with marketing experience. Samad replied that students could submit petitions.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

There is a special meeting of the Council next week on April 27, 2026. In addition to the April meeting, there will be at least one additional summer meeting on May 28, 2026.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed