

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

April 27, 2026

12-1 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. Keely Croxton (Fisher College of Business)
- Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)
- Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
- Ms. Jana Lithgow (Fisher College of Business)
- Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Ashley Perez (Department of Comparative Studies)
- Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

Mr. Terondrick Waller (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)

The meeting came to order at 12:03 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

Sutherland thanked all those who could attend this additional meeting of the Council.

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

- **Proposal to redesign the BSBA core curriculum – Fisher College of Business**

Guests: Keely Croxton, Associate Dean, Fisher College of Business; Jana Lithgow, Executive Director for Undergraduate Programs, Fisher College of Business

The Fisher College of Business (FCOB) proposes to redesign the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) core curriculum.

FCOB's undergraduate core has not undergone substantial revision since the university's transition from quarters to semesters, and those changes were largely structural rather than market-driven. The proposed revision has two primary aims: to intentionally develop the durable and technical skills industry partners consistently identify as critical, and to introduce foundational business concepts much earlier in students' academic careers.

During the revision process, Fisher identified four characteristics that the College wants in its graduates:

- Knowledge business practitioners
- Analytical and innovative problem solvers
- Bridge-building communicators
- Resilient and growth-oriented professionals

These qualities are durable, transferable, and deeply aligned with Fisher's mission to develop principled leaders who exercise leadership through their actions and interactions from the start of their careers, and who continue to expand their impact over time.

To achieve students with these qualities, FCOB redesigned its curriculum, focusing on integration and career skills. The revised curriculum is organized into four categories: foundation courses, functional coursework, integrative courses, and career skills courses. The College was careful to not increase the total overall credit hours while redesigning the curriculum. While students will not all follow one path through the curriculum, the new curriculum is more prescribed than the current one, particularly in the first two years.

In addition to curriculum revisions, Fisher will move its majors to direct admission with specialization declaration at the end of the first year; students will have a cohort-based freshman year with introductory courses; and there will be smaller section sizes for all core courses.

Students entering Ohio State in Autumn 2027 or after will be taught the new curriculum. Students joining Ohio State prior to Autumn 2027 will be under the legacy curriculum. FCOB acknowledges that the transition period when the College is simultaneously supporting students in the current curriculum while launching the new one will be particularly complex and resource-intensive. With intentional planning, shared ownership, and institutional backing, Fisher believes it is positioning itself for a successful transition and long-term strength.

Smith clarified to the Council that this proposal can be viewed as a framework. Many details still need to be determined, but the proposal needs to be on the agenda of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Committee meeting on May 21, 2026.

Herrmann informed the Council that Subcommittee B had several conversations with the proposers, and most of the Subcommittee's concerns were addressed prior to today's meeting. She added that a major concern was that FCOB did not work with other units while developing the proposal. Subcommittee B gives the proposal support on the following conditions: provide an update to this Council at the end of Autumn 2026 on courses in development; work with the Department of English on the Communication Took Kit; and collaborate with other units on course development and assessment.

Smith informed the Council the FCOB leadership met with him and now-President Bellamkonda late in Autumn Semester 2025 to share an overview of the proposed changes. At the meeting, Smith advised FCOB to work with other units on the curriculum revision.

The Council asked how the BSBA revision will impact the regional campuses. The proposers responded that the plan is to offer the new curriculum on the regional campuses. The Council said it would be helpful to see the regional campus advising sheets at the Autumn 2026 update.

The Council asked if a student could still declare a specialization on the Common App. The proposers replied in the affirmative, clarifying that a student can declare a specialization on the Common App but the deadline to declare is not until the end of a student's first year. The proposers added that declaring a specialization guarantees placement. If a student does not declare a specialization, he/she will have to meet the GPA minimum.

Herrmann said that Subcommittee B did appreciate the proposal's focus on students.

Smith informed the Council that Fisher worked closely with the Ohio Department of Higher Education on making sure the program was transferable.

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

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

- **Proposal to revise the Classics BA – College of Arts and Sciences**
- **Proposal to revise the Comparative Studies BA – College of Arts and Sciences (Andrew**
- **Proposal to revise the French and Italian BA – College of Arts and Sciences (Andrew**

Guests: Andrew Martin, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Ashley Perez, Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Studies; Bernadette Vankeerbergen, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

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 received conditional waivers 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 Arts and Sciences received approval for three conditional waivers as part of the low enrollment program review. The conditional waivers are to merge programs into existing or new programs. The Department of Classics will merge the Ancient History and Classics, Modern Greek, and Classics majors into a single Classics major leading to the Bachelor of Arts. The Department of Comparative Studies will merge the Comparative Studies, Religious Studies, and World Literature majors into a single Comparative Studies major leading to the Bachelor of Arts. The Department of French and Italian will merge the French, French and Francophone Studies, Italian, and Italian Studies major into a single French and Italian major leading to the Bachelor of Arts.

Martin informed the Council that the goal is to have minimal disruptions to students.

Perez remarked that—while the Department would prefer to not have State mandates—there is some excitement for the revisions. In Comparative Studies, the subplans will now have parallel tracks that may create more unity among students and faculty.

The proposers verified that the subplans will be transcriptable as that is important to students.

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

Smith informed the Council that these proposals will also go to the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs, Research, and Student Life Subcommittee on May 21, 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

House Bill 96 calls for the Board of Trustees to approve curriculum, including courses. The Office of Academic Affairs is working with the Board of Trustees on the course approval process.

The Council's next meeting is on May 28, 2026.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed