COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

December 3, 2025
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. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)
Ms. Rosemary Mullaghy (IPC, Pharmacy)
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. Ola Ahlqvist (University Honors and Scholars Center)
Ms. Alexa Benear (Chronic Brain Injury Program)
Ms. Margo Coates (College of Dentistry)
Dr. John Draper (Department of Operations and Business Analytics)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Mr. Colin Edwards (Chronic Brain Injury Program)
Dr. Jonathan Godbout (Chronic Brain Injury Program)
Dr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)

Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Jay Gupta (Department of Physics)
Mr. Kedar Hiremath (Chronic Brain Injury Program)
Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Mr. Zeke Johnston-Halperin (Department of Physics)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. David Penneys (Department of Mathematics)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)
Dr. Ron Reano (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

The proposal to establish a Master of Energy Sustainability was removed from today's agenda as additional information was needed.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The proposal to establish an Executive Master of Health Administration was approved at the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Student Life meeting on November 20, 2025.

Senate Bill 1 requires the Board of Trustees (BOT) to be more involved in curriculum. Ohio State is working on a plan regarding BOT involvement that will be submitted to the State in February.

Senate Bill 1 also requires the establishment of 3-year accelerated undergraduate degrees. There is interest from a few colleges in developing accelerated degrees.

Ohio State has not received feedback yet from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) on its low enrollment program submissions.

The Chase Center is working on a proposal to establish an undergraduate major.

Smith will attend the Economic Development 411 meeting on December 5, 2025.

Smith and Norman Jones, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, are meeting with the college clusters to discuss workforce development and experiential learning.

Ohio State continues to work on strengthening its relationship with Columbus City Schools.

Smith is meeting with different campus groups to inform them of the Higher Learning Commission site visit in March 2027. Williams is serving as Smith's faculty fellow related to accreditation.

On November 21, 2025, Smith met with individuals from ODHE and Sinclair Community College to discuss a 2+2 transfer compliance issue. The conversation was collegial and productive. It is clear that there is a need for greater transparency with 2+2 programs.

The Office of Academic Affair's (OAA) Academic Organization and Curriculum Handbook is being updated. Smith hopes the updated version will be completed before the start of summer.

Smith informed the Council that OAA submitted its report on low enrollment courses (fewer than 18 students) to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). The report is due every three years.

OAA is working to get syllabi in compliance with the mandates made by Senate Bill 1. Requirements include public accessibility, instructor qualifications, detailed course outlines, and required reading materials. Ohio State must be compliant by August 2026.

Smith reminded the Council that today's meeting is the last one until January.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

- **Revision to the Hospitality Management Minor – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences revised its Hospitality Management Minor, updating the credit hours for two elective courses (CSHSPMG 2810 and 3730) to align with placement hour policies.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Hospitality Management BS Program – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences revised its Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management, updating the credit hours for two required courses (CSHSPMG 2810 and 3730) to align with placement hour policies. The change will increase the overall major hours from 71-95 to 72-97. To offset this increase, the total number of free elective hours was decreased from 25-49 to 23-48.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Corrections to the Construction Systems Management Advising Sheet – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

The Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering updated the advising sheet for the Bachelor of Science in Construction Systems Management, correcting the options for the Natural Sciences GE Foundations and adding options for the Data Analysis Embedded Literacy.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Creation of a non-credit, Certificate of Completion: CTSI Business of Team Science Program – College of Medicine**

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute's (CTSI) created a Certificate of Completion (category 4, non-credit): CTSI Business of Team Science Program. The program will equip learners with the skills and frameworks necessary to lead and participate effectively in cross-disciplinary scientific teams.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Biostatistics Certificate – College of Public Health**

The College of Public Health revised its Biostatistics Certificate, replacing PUBHLTH 6410 with PUBHLTH 6014. This change results in an overall decrease in credit hours from 14 to 13.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery – Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge**

Guests: Alexa Benear, Project Manager, Chronic Brain Injury Program; Colin Edwards, Program Analyst, Chronic Brain Injury Program; Kedar Hiremath, Associate Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program; Jonathan Godbout, Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program

The Chronic Brain Injury (CBI) Program, through the Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK), proposes to establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery.

The CBI Program began in 2014 through Ohio State's Discovery Themes Initiative. CBI established a foundation to address complex, persistent, and long-long challenges presented by brain injury. CBI has driven interdisciplinary and translational research projects featuring teams of scientists across campus and external organizations by investing in new faculty, innovative projects, experiential training, and shared resources.

CBI's proposed Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery (CBIRD) will continue this effort to holistically improve the University's research environment for funding success and societal impact by specifically incorporating projects and activities across the University's teaching, service, and outreach mission. The main objective of CBIRD will be to deepen and broaden the implementation of CBI's research and academic mission within four domains: Discovery, Assessment, Recovery, and Systems:

- Discovery: Understanding and characterizing injury mechanisms through fundamental cellular, behavioral, and cognitive neuroscience
- Recovery: Enhancing monitoring, detection and screening of injury markers through technology, software, and data development
- Assessment: Advancing treatment and rehabilitation through neural regeneration, drug developments, and novel strategies
- Systems: Integrating discoveries, technologies, and therapeutics within the clinical, socioeconomic, and legal environments

Faculty members of CBIRD will be selected through their expressed interest in participating in the center, and from targeted invitations to faculty and staff. All CBIRD faculty, staff, and student affiliates must meet established engagement criteria through center programming, and conduct research, clinical care, or training related to brain injury topics. Center participants will be categorized as either faculty members or affiliates.

The Center's organizational structure will include a Faculty Director, an Associate Director, a faculty advisory board, an external advisory board, and program staff. CBIRD has natural and strong connections to other Centers across campus.

CBIRD has direct funding through an endowment with continued effort to support the center through administrative grants, grants development and project management, industry sponsorship, and fundraising. In addition, CBIRD has funding from ERIK and the Office of Academic Affairs.

Subcommittee A noted that this was a clear, compelling proposal.

The Council asked if there are any concerns about funding with the current political climate. Godbout replied that CBIRD does have the funding commitment from ERIK for the next few years. In addition, CBIRD has funding outside of NIH grants, including industry partnerships and fundraising.

The Council asked the proposers to share some of their engagement plans. Hiremath responded that CBIRD will intersect often with the health sciences, and they are establishing a relationship with the College of Engineering. In addition, CBI has hosted events such as 5Ks, a gala, lectures, and Neuro Nights.

Godbout and Hiremath informed the Council that their benchmarking is around the Center's aspirational peers. Even among aspirational peers, CBIRD stands out with its interdisciplinary focus.

The Council asked if CBIRD will be involved with sports. Godbout replied that there are some barriers with sports programming, particularly football. CBIRD is starting to focus more efforts on youth sports and non-varsity sports.

The Council remarked that there seem to be many other Ohio State centers that have similar goals. Why is CBI submitting a proposal for a new center rather than merging with and/or strengthening an existing center? Godbout and Hiremath responded that CBIRD will be the only center that focuses on brain injury and what happens when a brain injury occurs. The success of CBI and support from ERIK makes the proposers feel confident in the need for such a center.

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

Smith informed the Council that the proposal will need to be reviewed and approved by the University Senate.

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

- **Proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Quantum Information Science and Engineering – College of Arts and Sciences**

- **Proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary PhD in Quantum Information Science and Engineering – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Jay Gupta, Professor, Department of Physics; Zeke Johnston-Halperin, Professor, Department of Physics; Dave Penneys, Professor, Department of Mathematics; Ron Reano, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Department of Physics proposes to establish interdisciplinary graduate programs in Quantum Information Science and Engineering, leading to the Master of Science and the PhD. The proposals have been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

Quantum Information Science and Engineering (QISE) is an interdisciplinary field combining quantum mechanics, computer science, and engineering to revolutionize how information is acquired, transmitted, and processed. It leverages quantum properties to develop technologies far exceeding classical capabilities in speed, precision, and security.

The proposed graduate programs will provide students with foundational coursework and accelerate their transition to experiential learning through quantum science research and industry graduate internships. Not only will students have the interdisciplinary and professional skills needed for the quantum workforce, but they will also help Ohio State faculty who are interested in pivoting some of their research activity into this field.

The proposed curriculum will feature a compact core of four graduate-level QISE courses with content specifically designed to accommodate students with undergraduate degrees in Chemistry, Physics, Math, Computer Science and Engineering, Materials Science Engineering, and Electrical and Computer Engineering. Students will be recruited into one of four program specializations that integrate advanced elective courses, research rotations, and experiential learning opportunities. The four specializations are Quantum Computing, Quantum Networking and Communication, Quantum Simulation, and Quantum Materials and Sensing.

The Master of Science (MS) will require a minimum of 30 credit hours (at least 9-credits in foundational graduate coursework, 6-credits for seminar-style professional development courses, and 3-credits for experiential learning). MS students can complete the program in 3-6 semesters or 1-2 academic years. The primary target audience for the MS program will be traditional college-age students.

The PhD will require a minimum of 90 credit hours (at least 10-credits in foundational graduate coursework, 6-credits for seminar-style professional development courses, 6-credit for electives, and 40-credits for experiential learning). PhD students can complete the program in 15-18 semesters or 5-6 academic years.

Assessment plans were provided for both programs.

There is a clear workforce demand for these programs with no other Ohio universities offering programs in QISE. The programs will be one of the first dedicated and interdisciplinary programs in the United States.

The Quantum Information Graduate Program (QiGP) has an NSF training grant funding to launch the program and fund 25 one-year fellowships, including full stipend and tuition. QiGP's goal is to matriculate 20 MS and 6 PhD students per year. MS students will be self- or employed-funded, or will have a University fellowship.

The Council did not have any questions for the proposers.

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

Smith informed the Council that the proposal will need reviewed and approved by the University Senate, Board of Trustees, and the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Business Analytics Minor – Fisher College of Business**

Guest: John Draper, Associate Professor-Clinical, Department of Operations and Business Analytics

The Department of Operations and Business Analytics proposes to revise the Business Analytics minor.

The proposed changes will ensure that the minor remains aligned with the rapidly evolving demands of industry and the emerging needs of students. Since its original development, the landscape of data-driven decision making has expanded significantly, with new tools, technologies, and methods reshaping how organizations analyze and apply data.

Changes include the removal of courses no longer taught, removal of elective courses with several prerequisites, addition of new courses, and updates to the prerequisites for required courses. The capstone course has been revised to be shorter (7-week offering), allowing projects to have more focused scopes.

The Department anticipates increased enrollment because of these changes.

Draper stated that the Department wanted to offer a pathway to the minor for students who did not complete all the math prerequisites.

The Council did not have any questions for the proposers.

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

Smith remarked to the Council that the Department of Operations and Business Analytics is very strong and had a successful external review in Autumn 2025.

PROPOSAL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE C – PROFESSORS RUSSELL MIKKELSON, WENDY BOWLES, NEAL HOOKER, AND VALARIE WILLIAMS; MS. ROSEMARY MULLAGHY AND MR. ANDY VANCE

- **Proposal to revise the Dental Hygiene Honors Program – College of Dentistry**

Guest: Ola Ahlqvist, Executive Director, University Honors and Scholars Center; Margo Coates, Assistant Director of Academic Studies, College of Dentistry

The College of Dentistry proposes to revise the Dental Hygiene Honors Program. This proposal was reviewed and approved by the University Honors and Scholars Center.

The proposed changes are to align with the new University Honors Program Standards. Changes include the following:

- Minimum of 18-credit hours of Honors-Quality courses
- Completion of 45 points for required benchmarks
    - Category A: Honors and Graduate Coursework
    - Category B: Research; Scholarship and Teaching
    - Category C: Leading and Service
- Require completion of an Honors-enhanced ePortfolio

Students who first enrolled during Autumn 2024 and beyond will follow the new Honors program. Current students can graduate under their existing Honors requirements or update to the new requirements.

The Council would like clarification on the capstone (DENTHYG 4430E) and independent study (DENTHYG 4419E) requirements. For the capstone, the syllabus needs to identify what students need to complete to receive Honors credit. For the independent study, it should be clearer that the course will be used to complete non-major Category A student coursework. Smith will request this information when sending the official approval.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Rosie Quinzon-Bonello, Assistant Dean in the College of Engineering, is retiring at the end of December. Smish shared his appreciation for all the work that she has done with the College and the University.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed