

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

February 18, 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. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)
- ✓ Mr. Angad Dhillon (IPC, Medicine)
- ✓ 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 for Teaching and Learning)
- Dr. Noelle Arnold (College of Education and Human Ecology)
- Dr. Jeff Dotson (Department of Marketing and Logistics)
- Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Amy Ferketich (College of Public Health)
- Dr. Cody Grabbe (Undergraduate Admissions)
- Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
- Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Maria Mirti (Graduate School)
Dr. Hollie Nzitatira (Department of Sociology)
Dr. Alan Ross (Department of Classics)
Dr. Andrea Severson (College of Social Work)
Dr. Blake Stringer (Center for Aviation Studies)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith is substituting as Chair for Sutherland at this meeting.

The following proposals are on the agenda of tomorrow's Board of Trustees Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee meeting: Proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Master of Science in Quantum Information Science and Engineering; proposal to establish an Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy in Quantum Information Science and Engineering; and the proposal to establish a Master of Energy Sustainability.

Ohio State's decennial re-affirmation of accreditation visit is in March 2027. Smith has convened a steering committee to begin work on the self-study.

Smith recently co-chaired a Higher Learning Commission site visit Park University. Park University is going to offer an accelerated baccalaureate degree (90-credit hours). The State of Ohio is mandating the creation of accelerated bachelor's degrees. The accelerated bachelor's degrees need to have a strong workforce development component.

Senior Vice Provost Trevor Brown is leading a Military and Military-Connected Task Force to address President Carter's strategic plan of increasing military attendance at Ohio State.

Griffiths and Smith continue to meet with different groups, including the regional campuses, to discuss workforce development and experiential learning.

On February 17, 2026, Smith convened a meeting to help connect different areas of the University to the newly created Career Center of Excellence.

House Bill 96 calls for the Board of Trustees to be more involved in the approval of curriculum and academic structures. The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) is working with the Office of Government Affairs and Office of Legal Affairs on recommendations to the Board.

Smith will invite Ajit Chaudhari, OAA Faculty Fellow, to a March CAA meeting to give, with Sutherland, a Simple Syllabus overview.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

- **Update to the Choral and General Music Education degree programs – College of Arts and Sciences**

The School of Music updated the Choral and General Music Education degree programs, replacing MUSIC 2413 with MUSIC 5415.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Department of Classics' Embedded Literacies (except Modern Greek) – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Classics updated the Embedded Literacies for their majors (except Modern Greek), streamlining the Embedded Literacies with courses offered in the Department at the 5000-level and select Classics courses.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Journalism Major – College of Arts and Sciences**

The School of Communication updated the Journalism major, adding COMM 4445 as an option to fulfil the Critical Thinking Skills Area of the major.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene program – College of Dentistry**

The College of Dentistry revised the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene program, merging two courses (DENTHYG 6000 will be merged into DENTHYG 6200) into a single course and adding a writing course. The total credit hours remain the same.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Updates to specializations and tracks for the Educational Studies PhD – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Education Studies clarified the impacts of the recently approved proposal to revise the PhD in Educational Studies. By consolidating specializations in the newly revised program, the Department has eliminated specializations and corresponding tracks used under the previous model. The following changes were made:

Active Specializations

- Counselor Education (WCE) – existing
- School Psychology (WSL) – existing
- Counseling Psychology (CPY) – existing

- Special Education (SPE) – existing
- Educational Research, Policy, and Practice (ERP) – new per this approved proposal
- Higher Education, Student Affairs, and Workforce Development (HEW) – new per this approved proposal

Eliminated Specializations

- Educational Administration (EAN)
- Educational Policy (EPS)
- Educational Psychology (PSY)
- Educational Technology (ETN)
- Higher Education Student Affairs (HEA)
- Learning Technologies (LTN)
- Philosophy of Education (PHL)
- Philosophy and History of Education (PHE)
- Quantitative Research, Evaluation, and Measurement (QRE)
- Teacher Ed Policy and Leadership (TED)
- Teaching, Virtual Environments (TVE)
- Workforce Development and Education (WDE)

Eliminated Tracks

- Initial Advanced Licensure (A1C)
- Subsequent Advanced Licensure (A2C)
- Cultural Foundations of Educ (CF)
- Edu Admin + Prin Lic 8-21 (EAO)
- Edu Admin Superintendent Lic (EAS)
- Edu Admin + Prin Lic 3-14 (EAY)
- Nonlicensure (NLC)
- Qualitative Research in Educ (QI)

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Aviation major curriculum – College of Engineering**

The Center for Aviation Studies updated the Aviation major curriculum, impacting both the standard program and the Professional Pilot Certification (PPC). Changes for both programs include the addition of three new courses (AVIATN 1201, 1202, and 2220), removal of AVIATN 2200, and reduction of free elective specialization credit hours from 17 to 15. For the PPC program, a new Restricted Air Transport Pilot (RATP) Elective section was added for 15-credit hours. To offset the new RATP section, the total technical elective hours were reduced from 17 to 15.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Computer Science minor program – College of Engineering**

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering updated the Computer Science Minor, adding CSE 2124 and its required prerequisite course (CSE 1224) as a possible path minors can take to fulfil the introductory programming requirement.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Retroactive deactivation of the Rural Sociology program – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

The School of Environment and Natural Resources retroactively deactivated the Rural Sociology Graduate Program (RSGP). The program was absorbed into the Environment and Natural Resources Graduate Program as a specialization in 2017. The last RSGP student graduated in Spring 2017.

The Council asked if there are concerns that this is a retroactive deactivation. Smith responded that this is not ideal, but that sometimes there is a disconnect between a program and the college office.

- **Update to the Bioethics MA – College of Medicine**

The Center for Bioethics updated the Master of Arts in Bioethics, adding BIOETHC 7800 to the core curriculum.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering Programs – College of Engineering**

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering updated the Ethics requirement for both the Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering Programs of Study, adding two new courses (PHILOS 2332.01 and PHILOS 2332.02) as options for all ECE students.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Industrial and Systems Engineering Programs – College of Engineering**

The Department of Integrated Systems Engineering updated the Industrial and Systems Engineering program, updating the advising sheet to reflect the recent decimalization of ENGR 2301 (now ENGR 2301.01 and ENGR 2301.02), and adding two new options to fulfil the Ethics requirement (PHILOS 2332 and PHILOS 2338).

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Correction to the Community Leadership - Leadership specialization BS AGR – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

The Department of Agricultural Communication, Education and Leadership corrected its curriculum sheets for the Community Leadership – Leadership specialization. The following corrections were made for effective terms AU22 and AU23:

- The total credit hours for the Major Coursework should be 47-48 credit hours (not 50-51 credit hours)
- This results in an increase in Open Electives to 13-22 credit hours (not 10-19 credit hours)

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the MA in Latin American Studies Program – Office of International Affairs**

The Center for Latin American Studies updated the Master of Arts in Latin American Studies program, replacing International Studies 5640 with Spanish 6705.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

The College of Public Health revised the Biostatistics Certificate, making the certificate stackable or embedded along with stand-alone.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Master of Social Work – College of Social Work**

The College of Social Work revised the Master of Social Work, removing the requirement to complete SWK 7400 and increasing the credit hours for SWK 7500 from 2- to 3-credit hours.

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 re-establish the Department of Aviation – College of Engineering**

Guest: Blake Stringer, Director, Center for Aviation Studies

The Center for Aviation Studies proposes to re-establish the Department of Aviation.

Ohio State is the oldest collegiate aviation institution in the United States, established in 1917 to prepare pilots for service in World War I. In 2012, due to faculty attrition and administration priorities, the Department of Aviation was abolished and replaced by the Center for Aviation Studies (CAS). CAS is

not a Tenure-Initiating Unit (TIU), which has made the recruitment and hiring of tenure-track difficult—despite the program experiencing a resurgence in enrollment and research expenditures.

Aviation is recognized, fairly discrete area of academic specialization not already included in the mission of another department. Elevating the Center for Aviation Studies to the Department of Aviation will allow Ohio State to maintain a modern and relevant aviation curriculum; grow research and scholarship opportunities; and leverage disruptive aviation opportunities for curriculum and research. It will also help to grow and enhance relationships with industry, alumni, and donor bases to create sustainable opportunities, experiences, and facilities for students.

The Department of Aviation will be housed in the College of Engineering with a chair reporting to the College's Dean. CAS currently has five faculty or staff, educated at the PhD level, who teach and conduct research in aviation. In addition, the Center employs six full-time lecturers to deliver the academic content. There is a hiring plan, approved by the college, to grow the faculty of the Department to at least 10 regular faculty, including 6 tenure-track faculty.

Three undergraduate aviation programs already exist at Ohio State with approximately 350 students: Bachelor of Science in Aviation in the College of Engineering (COE); Air Transportation major leading to the Bachelor of Arts in the College of Arts and Sciences (ASC); and the Aviation Management specialization leading to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in the Fisher College of Business. CAS/The Department of Aviation manages, maintains, and delivers all Aviation coursework supporting these programs as well as the Aviation Minor. The ASC and COE programs offer the Professional Pilot Specialization that offers students the opportunity to enroll in Flight Education, obtain licensure by the Federal Aviation Administration, and upon graduation, pursue a career as a professional pilot.

There is currently no graduate aviation program at Ohio State, but the Department plans on developing an aviation graduate program that aligns with the research capabilities of its faculty and the needs of its strategic partners and the aviation industry at large.

The three big aviation programs in the United States are offered by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Liberty University, and University of North Dakota. Purdue University is the only other institution in the Big 10 to offer programs in aviation. In Ohio, Bowling Green State University and Kent State University offer the largest aviation programs after Ohio State.

The Department anticipates increased enrollment and increased interest from industry. About 40% of aviation majors at Ohio State are from out-of-state.

The Council asked if CAS has any existing relationships with the US military. Stringer responded in the affirmative through the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps). He added that the military continues to be the least expensive way to become a pilot, and that some institutions are starting to military pilot training because of the military's backlog.

The Council asked if any faculty lines will move into the Department. Stringer said that three faculty lines will move but will have joint appointments. The remaining faculty are lecturers who may have the opportunity to move into clinical appointments. Smith added that the minimum number of faculty in a department is 10 per the Office of Academic Affairs handbook.

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

The proposal will need to be reviewed and approved by the University Senate and the Board of Trustees.

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

- **Proposal to establish a Tech Innovation Specialization in the Business Administration major – Fisher College of Business**

Guest: Jeff Dotson, Associate Professor, Department of Marketing and Logistics

The Fisher College of Business (FCOB), in partnership with the Center for Software Innovation, proposes to establish a Tech Innovation Specialization leading to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

The Tech Innovation Specialization reimagines business education through corporate-sponsored technology project development. The specialization addresses the critical gap between traditional business education and the demands of modern tech-driven corporate environments by having students work on real corporate technology initiatives over their junior and senior years.

The program will have a unique format, adopting a compressed 1-semester immersion followed by sustained corporate project engagement, industry professional co-instruction, and comprehensive mentorship. The approach will enable students to master both foundational business disciplines and cutting-edge technology practices through immediate application on corporate-sponsored initiatives.

Students are admitted into FCOB as freshman as a Business Major. During the freshman year, a student will learn about the specialization and apply for the program. The sophomore year is the Technology Foundation Immersion, consisting of 12-credit hours focused on modern tech innovation plus an Executive Lecture Series for 1-credit hour. The junior and senior years are the Builders Studio Corporate Projects, consisting of one Building Studio course per semester. Students will have a total of 12-credit hours of Building Studios (3-credit hours per studio). The specialization is 25-credit hours (13 Immersion and 12 Builders Studio).

Corporate partnerships are critical to the success of this program. Project sponsor companies include Fortune 500 technology companies, high-growth technology startups, digital transformative leaders across industries, and AI and data-driven organizations.

FCOB anticipates a cohort of 50 students.

The Council asked if this specialization needs to be listed on the Common App. Dotson replied in the negative as students will apply to be Business Majors. Since this is not a new major, it can be reviewed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education as a new track, which only requires staff review/approval.

The Council asked if transfer students are eligible for this specialization. Dotson replied that they may allow transfer students in the future but not at the moment.

Dotson informed the Council that this specialization is acting as an informal pilot for an interdisciplinary major that is being developed by the Center for Software Innovation.

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

Smith informed the Council that FCOB has been working on a major revision to its Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. The proposal should come to the Council before the end of spring semester.

RESULTS FROM ELECTRONIC BALLOT – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith informed the Council that the proposal to revise the Computer Information Science majors leading to the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science was approved by electronic vote.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Proposal to expand the BSSW 4 + 1 program option to include the regional campuses – College of Social Work**

Guest: Andrea Severson, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies, College of Social Work

The College of Social Work proposes to expand the Bachelor of Science in Social Work 4+1 program option to include the regional campuses. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

Expanding the 4+1 program to the regional campuses will allow students who choose to attend a regional campus the opportunity to complete an undergraduate and graduate program in 5 years. With the recent introduction of the Campus Commitment program, the College anticipates an increased interest in attending and graduating from a regional campus. In addition to the financial benefits of attending a regional campus, extending the 4+1 program to the regional campuses increases access to the program for those who cannot attend the Columbus campus.

The 4+1 program is only for New First Year Students (NFYS). Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 at Ohio State and earn a “B” grade or higher in select Social Work courses. During their senior year, students must submit their intent to continue to the Master of Social Work (MSW) Advanced Standing Alternative Plan (ASAP) program. The MSW program application fee is waived for 4+1 students.

Letters of support were received, including a strong letter of support from Eric Anderman, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses.

The Council asked how students will find out about the regional campus option. Severson responded that she is not sure how Undergraduate Admissions shares the information, but that the College of Social Work will share information in its survey course as well as in email communications to students.

Severson clarified that the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) can be fully completed at the regional campuses. The MSW is offered online or at the Columbus campus. Those students

participating from the regionals would pursue the online MSW. Severson added that 4+1 students have the option to complete the MSW within 5 years of the BSSW, if a need arises to go into the work force.

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

Smith remarked that he expects to see more curricular development at the regional campuses. In addition, the regional campuses are developing strategic plans, which include increased advising needs. Smith will invite Vice Provost Anderman to an upcoming meeting to discuss his vision.

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Public Health – College of Public Health**

Guest: Amy Ferketich, Associate Dean, College of Public Health

The College of Public Health (CPH) proposes to revise the Master of Public Health. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The proposed revisions are in response to unintended consequences from the implementation of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Integrated Foundational Curriculum in 2021-22. The more important consequence was related to the fact that the Integrated Foundational Curriculum was too introductory for students in some specializations. Specializations that had used a previous version of a core course as a prerequisite for an advanced course (in biostatistics or epidemiology) quickly discovered that students were not prepared for the more advanced course. The more advanced courses then had to be revised a bit to provide more foundational content. Other specializations were disadvantaged because students may not receive their core content until spring semester. In addition, there were issues related to scheduling, particularly for part-time students.

To fix these issues, the college is proposing a new foundational core curriculum that includes five, 2-credit hour classes. Each division in CPH will teach one of the classes. The courses will initially be asynchronous but will eventually be offered in-person.

The changes will have no adverse impact on current students. Current students have already completed (or are finishing) the integrated core. The few current students who have not completed the core will work with advisors and/or the program chair to determine best substitutions.

The revision is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council applauded the proposal for being straightforward as well as the College for identifying and fixing the issues so quickly. Smith added that CPH has a strong history of curriculum development and revision.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Greek and Latin (Classics) Master of Arts and PhD – College of Arts and Sciences (Alan Ross.2005)**

Guest: Alan Ross, Associate Professor, Department of Classics

The Department of Classics proposes to revise the Greek and Latin (Classics) programs leading to the Master of Arts (MA) and PhD. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The Greek and Latin (Classics) PhD program requires 80 credit hours, including a 30-credit “voluntary terminal status” MA in Greek and Latin that is awarded in the instance of a student not continuing with the doctoral coursework. The MA requirements are typically completed by the end of Year 2; students typically pass Candidacy in Year 3. The changes to coursework affect the MA and the coursework requirements for Candidacy only. All other requirements remain unchanged.

Changes include the following: decrease the credit hour of the four survey courses from 5- to 4-credit hours; addition of Classics 6001 as a core course for Candidacy and for the terminal MA; addition of Classics 602 as a core course for Candidacy but not for the terminal MA; and changing the 7000-level seminar requirement for the terminal MA and candidacy from three Greek and three Latin courses to two Greek, two Latin, and two Classics courses.

The new structure should allow more flexibility for students to pursue electives, while also providing a solid foundational core curriculum in Greek and Latin language and literature.

There are no changes to the assessment plan.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to suspend the Sociology major leading to the Bachelor of Science – College of Arts and Sciences (Hollie Nzitatira.1)**

Guest: Hollie Nzitatira, Professor, Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology proposes to suspend the Sociology major leading to the Bachelor of Science.

The Sociology major leading to the Bachelor of Science (BS) was established nearly a decade ago. Despite efforts by the Department to increase interest, the major never had a large enrollment. Currently, the major only has 15 students and 10 of those students are scheduled to graduate in Spring 2026. The five remaining students will be able to complete their degree, but no new students will be able to enroll in the program.

The College of Arts and Sciences is developing a new major, the SBS Computational Social Science major leading to the Bachelor of Science, that will be a good fit for students interested in a more rigorous option than the Sociology major leading to the Bachelor of Arts (BA).

The Council asked if there were any concerns from faculty about the suspension of this major. Nzitatira responded that there was disappointment but not concern. All courses will continue to be offered and there are plenty of undergraduate students enrolled in Sociology. She added that there was not necessarily an eroding interest in the BS option; rather, it just never took off.

Nzitatira noted that many students are intimidated by the requirements of the Bachelor of Science. It was noted that students who pursue BS options often plan to pursue a PhD in the discipline. The Department of Political Science also offers a BS option with a smaller cohort than the BA. The Council asked if there is a benefit to deactivating the program rather than suspending. Nzitatira responded that suspension gives the department more flexibility should there be a sudden interest in it. Smith added that the program would likely be impacted by Senate Bill 1's low enrollment threshold should enrollment not increase.

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

The Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed