

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

March 4, 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:

- Ms. Shereen Agrawal (Center for Software Innovation)
- Dr. Jissel Anaya (Department of Speech and Hearing Science)
- Dr. Rebecca Andridge (College of Public Health)
- Dr. Anika Anthony (Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning)
- Dr. Eric Bielefeld (Department of Speech and Hearing Science)
- Dr. Kristy Browning (College of Nursing)
- Dr. Ashley Cetnar (Department of Radiation Oncology)
- Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)

Dr. Alvaro Garcia Guerra (Department of Animal Sciences)
Dr. Cody Grabbe (Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. John Holmes (Department of Mathematics)
Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Maria Mirti (Graduate School)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

Sutherland thanked the Council for their help while she was out of the office.

The proposal to re-establish the Department of Aviation is on the agenda of the Faculty Council meeting on March 5, 2026.

Sutherland and Ajit Chaudhari, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, are co-leading the workgroup on the State's Simple Syllabus requirement. They are presenting their work at the Academic Program Advisory Committee (APAC) meeting on March 10, 2026. A similar presentation will happen at an upcoming Council meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The following proposals are on the agenda of the Full Board meeting on March 12, 2026: 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.

The proposal to establish a major in Civics, Law and Leadership will be discussed at a future meeting.

Griffiths and Smith continue to meet with groups to discuss workforce development. They have recently met with individuals from the Columbus Chamber, EAB (Education Advisory Board), MORPC (Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission), and JobsOhio. They gave an overview of their efforts to Provost Bellamkonda and Senior Vice Provost Brown on February 24, 2026.

Smith is working to get a third advisor for the College Credit Plus office. He added that there is an interest in increasing College Credit Plus participation at Ohio State.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education has a relatively new manual for approval of new programs and changes to existing programs. The Office of Academic Affairs is developing new processes to be compliant with their requirements.

House Bill 96 requires that the Board of Trustees be more involved in the approval of curriculum, including courses, and administrative structures. There will be a resolution at the Full Board meeting on March 12, 2026, endorsing this mandate. Implementation details are pending. There will be no impact on this Council's work as Board approval will happen after this Council's review.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Update to Biomedical Engineering Technical Electives – College of Engineering**

The Department of Biomedical Engineering updates its Career Courses/Technical Electives, including the addition of new courses and clarification of rules. These updates will improve flexibility, clarify limits on research and study abroad credits, and allow broader access to engineering electives.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the City and Regional Planning Electives – College of Engineering**

The Knowlton School of Architecture updated the elective requirement for the City and Regional Planning program, reducing the required major elective hours from 21 to 18 and increasing the free electives from 18 to 21. This adjustment should improve scheduling flexibility, streamline degree process, and better align the program with peer accredited planning degrees.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

Smith remarked to the Council that he encourages members to visit Knowlton Hall as it is a unique building with student work on display.

- **Update to the ECE Signal Processing Minor and Certificate – College of Engineering**

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering updated the Signal Processing Minor and Certificate, allowing ECE 2360 as an additional option for the required electronics course.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Bioethics Undergraduate Minor – College of Medicine**

The Department of Biomedical Education and Anatomy updated the Bioethics undergraduate minor, adding several courses to the required course list.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Changes to the Glenn College DC Programs – John Glenn College of Public Affairs**

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs changed its Washington DC-based graduate programs:

- Eliminating the requirement for PUBAFRS 6545 for the Master of Public Affairs-DC program. This content will be covered in other activities while the students are in Washington, DC.
- Eliminating the internship requirement as part of the Certificate and Minor in Federal Policy and Management programs.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Equine Science Minor – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Alvaro Garcia Guerra, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences; Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Department of Animal Sciences proposes to revise the Equine Science minor.

The proposed changes include a reduction in the required credit hours to complete the minor from 15 to 12, and removal of an elective option course that is no longer offered.

The Council asked if the Department is hoping that a decrease in credit hours will increase enrollment in the minor. Osborne responded in the affirmative but added that the revision is more related to low enrollment courses. The courses in the minor cannot always be offered due to enrollment thresholds.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Animal Sciences BS AGR and Animal Sciences-Nutrition BSN – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Alvaro Garcia Guerra, Associate Professor, Department of Animal Sciences; Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Department of Animal Sciences proposes to revise three specializations (Animal Biosciences, Animal Industries, and Veterinary Technology) of the Animal Sciences major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and the Animal Sciences major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition.

The intent of the revision is to simplify requirements to reduce confusion among students, increase flexibility as course offering change, facilitate smoother transitions for campus-change students, and improve integration of requirements within the Buckeye Degree Planner.

Changes to the Animal Biosciences and Animal Industries Specializations include updating the course offerings lists and replacing a specified list of elective options with instructions that the balance of credits may be taken from courses in Animal Sciences, Meat Science, or Animal Technology.

Changes to the Veterinary Technology Specialization include updating the course offerings list and allowing Columbus State Community College (CSCC) courses to fulfill Minor Equivalent, Major Supporting, and Technical Core and Open Electives requirements. The latter change will strengthen the OSU-CSCC pathways program by allowing students to complete their Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology from CSCC while graduating from Ohio State with the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture within the 121 credit hours limit.

Changes to the Animal Sciences major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition (BSN) include updating the course offerings list.

Osborne informed the Council that the College works closely with industry, and it is industry that often drives curricular change.

The Council asked if there is concern about removing the Pet Food Production course from the Animal Sciences BSN. Osborne replied that the course is being removed because there is no longer faculty expertise in that area. The course is still in the catalog, though, should there be later interest in it.

The Council remarked that it appreciates how the College outlines its elective credits.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Bachelor of Science in Public Health – College of Public Health**

Guest: Rebecca Andridge, Professor, College of Public Health

The College of Public Health (CPH) proposes to revise the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH).

The primary motivations for these changes are to adopt new accreditation criteria from the Council on Education in Public Health; feedback from accreditation site visitors, current students, and alumni; and a desire to create a third, more general specialization.

To meet the new accreditation standards, the Major Core curriculum for all specializations will expand significantly (from 22-23 to 37-38 credits) through the addition of five required courses, including new courses focused on AI Fluency, health policy, diseases relevant to the field of public health, and advanced writing. To accommodate the larger core, the existing Environmental Public Health and Public Health Sociology specializations will be streamlined and reduced in required credits, while maintaining coverage of revised specialization competencies. A third specialization, Public Health Methods, will be introduced to provide a broader public health foundation for students entering the workforce. The Public Health Methods specialization includes two new classes.

There is no change in total number of credit hours for the BSPH degree.

The revision is effective Autumn 2026. All students who declare the major in Autumn 2026 or later will follow the new curriculum. Students who declare the major before Autumn 2026 will follow the old curriculum. A petition process exists if needed.

Concurrence was received from the Department of English on the Embedded Literacy course. Andridge remarked that English has been an excellent partner for CPH.

The Council noted that the options to fulfill the biology requirement are quite different. How will CPH ensure that students are prepared for higher-level courses? Andridge responded that CPH consulted with the Center for Life Sciences Education (CLSE) on the biology requirement, and CLSE recommended including the new courses as options.

The Council applauded the College for a clear, well-written proposal as well as for reaching out to other units early in the proposal development process.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Clinical Research Program – College of Nursing**

Guest: Kristy Browning, Associate Dean, College of Nursing

The College of Nursing proposes to revise the Master of Clinical Research (MCR) program. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The proposed revisions to the MCR program are a result of a market analysis with other competitive programs nationwide as well as faculty review for curricular drift. The goal of the curriculum revision is to:

- Align with clinical trial operations and regulation rather than pre-clinical
- Update the curriculum to offer cutting-edge courses that better meet the emerging trends in the industry and employer stakeholders
- Ensure students gain competencies needed for clinical trial clarification and be prepared for a wide variety of roles in the clinical trials workforce
- Reduce credits from 36 to 30 hours to remain competitive with other peer programs

Proposed changes include two new courses, one course revision, and elimination of five courses.

The effective term is Autumn 2026. Current students will have the option to transition to the new curriculum or to continue in the established curriculum plan leading to completion of the MCR degree. Courses will not be eliminated until students completing the legacy program graduate.

Browning informed the Council that the program wanted to decrease the program's overlap in course content.

The Council noted that there are no changes to the capstone requirement. Will students still be prepared for the capstone with the proposed changes? Browning replied in the affirmative with confidence.

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

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

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

The Department of Radiation Oncology proposes to establish a Master of Science in Medical Physics. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The practice of medical physics combines the knowledge, concepts, and principles of physics to the diagnosis and treatment of human disease. Medical physicists primarily apply this understanding in radiation oncology, diagnostic imaging, nuclear medicine, and health physics.

Medical Physicists are in high demand in the United States, especially in rural and underserved communities. Despite the high demand, there are few programs that offer the study of medical physics. There are currently no medical physics graduate programs available for students in central Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, or West Virginia. Ohio State has one of the largest physics undergraduate programs in the country with many interested applicants for continuing education in medical physics.

The Master of Science in Medical Physics will be a two-year program, consisting of 44 credit hours. Students will be required to complete an end-of-program oral examination assessing the student's understanding of the theoretical and applied fundamentals of medical physics and the student's readiness to engage in a sustained clinical or professional experience.

11 new courses will be created for this program.

An assessment plan and budget were provided. Letters of support were also provided.

The effective term is Autumn 2027.

The Council noted that the Department anticipates a cohort of 6-10 students per year, which seems like a conservative number based off the workforce demands. Cetnar replied that this is the standard class size in the field. She also noted that the program will have to assign residencies, which can be challenging.

Cetnar confirmed that the program has no transcriptable concentrations or specializations.

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

The proposal will need to be approved by the University Senate, Board of Trustees, and Ohio Department of Higher Education.

- **Proposal to create Bachelor of Science / Master of Science Combined Degree in Actuarial Science and Quantitative Risk Management – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: John Holmes, Associate Professor

The Department of Mathematics proposes to create a Bachelor of Science / Master of Science Combined Degree in Actuarial Science and Quantitative Risk Management. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

Currently, the Department of Mathematics offers an Actuarial Science BS (Bachelor of Science) and a MS (Master of Science) in Actuarial and Quantitative Risk Management (MAQRM). After reviewing the curriculum and the advanced courses being taken by high-performing students in the undergraduate major, it is possible for accelerated students to complete the requirements of both programs in five years.

The proposed combined BS/MAQRM degree program will allow students to double-count some 5000-level courses in actuarial science and mathematics, which are normally taken by advanced undergraduate students as electives or by beginning graduate students. By double counting 9 of these electives for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees, a student in the combined degree program can fulfill the undergraduate degree requirements in their fourth year and be able to complete the remaining requirements of the MAQRM degree in additional year.

Students will be made aware of the opportunity to participate in the combined degree program at the point of declaring their major in Actuarial Science and during appointments with advisors. It is anticipated that most students will apply during the Spring semester of their third year, but students can apply once they reach the admissions requirements. By the time of admission, applicants must be in good academic standing; have completed the major core courses; have completed the prerequisite economics courses; and have completed at least 90 credit hours as an undergraduate.

An assessment plan was included.

Holmes informed the Council that the Department just received data back on the success of alumni. The data shows that students are more successful when completing more credentials during college. This goes against the long-held recommendation that individuals work in industry before completing professional licensure exams. The Department hopes that this data will help increase enrollments.

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

Smith commented that Ohio State could be better at creative storytelling when it comes to lesser-known programs. Ohio State has one of the best actuarial science programs in the country, but it is not a well-known program outside of the Department.

- **Proposal to create a Graduate Certificate in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Jissel Anaya, Assistant Professor, Department of Speech and Hearing Science; Eric Bielefeld, Chair, Department of Speech and Hearing Science

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science proposes to create a Graduate Certificate (categories 3a and 3b) in Bilingual Speech-Language Pathology. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

With the changing United States population, there is a growing need for speech-language pathologists (SLPs) proficient in multiple languages and culturally responsive to diverse populations. Research has shown that bilingual SLPs are better equipped to conduct comprehensive assessments, provide culturally-responsive interventions, and collaborate with multilingual families. However, traditional

graduate programs in communication sciences and disorders often lack sufficient training and clinical hours in serving bilingual populations.

The proposed certificate program will provide specialized training for speech-language pathology students and professionals who wish to serve bilingual and multilingual populations. Through a combination of coursework, clinical practicum, and a capstone experience, students will develop culturally responsive assessment and intervention skills. The program emphasizes evidence-based practices and language proficiency to support effective service delivery in diverse communities. Certificate participants will need to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours (3 required courses and 2 elective courses).

The certificate will be open to current students in the Master of Arts program and licensed professionals.

There are no similar programs in Ohio and only a handful of comparable programs in the U.S.

An assessment plan was included as well as letters of support.

Bielefeld noted that this certificate is the product of a long-standing relationship with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The Council noted that the admissions process seems complex. Is that normal? Bielefeld replied that it seems complex because you must be in the industry to participate in the certificate. The requirements will be familiar to those in the industry.

The Council expressed concern that the certificate does not seem accessible to anyone outside of Columbus.

Romero informed the Council that she knows, anecdotally, that the Spanish-speaking community in central Ohio has an interest in this program. There has been interest expressed in creating an exchange program with universities in Puerto Rico.

Anaya confirmed that there is no time limit to complete the certificate.

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

FORTHCOMING PROPOSED BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND BUSINESS – MS. SHEREEN AGRAWAL

The Center for Software Innovation, in partnership with the Fisher College of Business (FCOB) and the College of Engineering, is developing a proposal for a new interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Business Degree. The degree will be conferred by the Fisher College of Business.

The proposal will be for a four-year program that includes a concurrent co-op.

Ratmir Timashev provided an additional \$15 million gift to help with the start-up of this program.

The aim is to have the proposal on the agenda of the University Senate meeting on April 23, 2026, with the goal of enrolling students in Autumn 2027. To be placed on the agenda of the 4/23 University Senate meeting, the proposal will need to be on the agenda of the CAA meeting on April 8, 2026. FCOB and Engineering are reviewing the proposal soon and then it will be submitted to this Council.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

With spring break, the Council's next meeting is in three weeks. Smith's office will be in touch soon to schedule summer meetings.

The Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed