

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

October 1, 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. Noelle Arnold (College of Education and Human Ecology)
- Dr. Cody Grabbe (Office of 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. Lindsay Kowalsky (Graduate School)
- Ms. Lindsey Lee (Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)

Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Maria Miriti (Graduate School)
Dr. Tasha Snyder (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3:01 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

Meg Daly will attend the Council’s meeting on October 22, 2025, to discuss a few items related to the University-Level Advisory Committee on the GE (ULAC).

Sutherland attended the Annual Assessment Conference on September 26, 2025.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith reported that 230 people attended the Annual Assessment Conference on September 26, 2025. The opening plenary session included Provost Bellamkonda. A team from Michigan State University will attend the 2026 conference. Smith thanked Andrew Martin, Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, for again taking the lead on conference planning.

Smith attended the Inter-University Council (IUC) Collaborative Initiatives Summit on September 24, 2025. The agenda included discussions on the future of higher education and AI.

Smith also attended the IUC Provost’s meeting on September 25, 2025. The agenda included discussions on Senate Bill 1 and the State’s proposed reduced credit hour baccalaureate degree.

The State is moving College Credit Plus (CCP) teacher credentials from its current master’s degree and 18-credit hours of specialization to master’s degree and 9-credit hours of specialization with a commitment to complete an additional 9-credit hours over three years. This is an opportunity for Ohio State to be more involved in the credentialing of CCP teachers.

Teams from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and the Ohio Board of Nursing were on campus earlier this week to review the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology and the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, respectively. Smith congratulated both programs on successful visits. There was a site team on campus this week to review the School of Communication.

Smith informed the Council that it will soon receive a new Center proposal from the Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge.

Griffiths and Smith will attend the Ohio Manufacturers Association meeting on October 3, 2025. The meeting is for curriculum leaders in advanced manufacturing pathways.

Ohio State will undergo its decennial reaccreditation reaffirmation in March 2027.

Senate Bill 1 introduced a new Civics Literacy Requirement (successful completion of a course and final exam) for all students attending an Ohio public university. At Ohio State, the Civics Literacy courses will have GE designation. The following units plan to develop a Civics Literacy course: Arts and Sciences, Chase Center, Education and Human Ecology, Public Affairs, and Law.

The Council's next meeting is in **three** weeks - on October 22, 2025.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

- **Updates to Biology BA, BS, and Minor – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Center for Life Sciences Education updated the Biology Major and Minor, adding EEOB 3310.20 as an option to fulfill the Evolution course requirement.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Master of Arts in Career and Technical Education – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Educational Studies updated the Master of Arts (MA) in Career and Technical Education, making EDUTL 5442 a requirement rather than an elective and eliminating elective options for the MA. These changes were in response to updated licensure requirements set by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Correction to the Civil Engineering undergraduate curriculum – College of Engineering**

The Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering updates its Transition Plan for the new Civil Engineering curriculum, giving more students the flexibility to switch to the new curriculum without delaying their time to degree. The following updates were made:

- Students who have started before Autumn 2024 will be given the option to continue their current curriculum or shift to the new curriculum with specified options
- Students who started Autumn 2025 or later will be given the option to either continue their current curriculum or shift entirely to pursuing the new curriculum

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposed guidelines for Stackable Certificate Programs – Graduate School**

Guest: Maria Mirit, Associate Dean, Graduate School

The Graduate School proposed guidelines for Stackable Certificate Programs. The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Combined Council on Academic Affairs / Graduate School Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

In December 2021, the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) convened a subcommittee of this Council to examine alternative pathways for learners to demonstrate knowledge and earn credentials from Ohio State. Part of the recommendation was to develop a pathway for Stackable Certificates towards a master's degree. The certificates would be designed such that all credits meet degree requirements. Since there is increasing interest from units in offering Stackable Certificates, it is clear that the development of clear guidelines in support of such academic programming is needed.

At Ohio State, students will be able to pursue one of two pathways into a stackable master's degree program:

1. Apply directly to a master's degree program and pursue curriculum in line with stackable certificates, or
2. Apply only to the stackable certificate program(s) and pursue the capstone at a later date upon admission into the master's degree program.

Students who pursue the first pathway follow a typical Master's plan and benefit from financial aid eligibility while earning the certificates once they are completed rather than waiting until degree completion. Those who pursue the second pathway will benefit from a lower initial commitment to a graduate program while gaining a marketable credential. Although ineligible for financial aid, employees may cover the cost of the certificate within the regulatory limits and company policy.

A stackable certificate master's program must culminate in a capstone experience, of a minimum of three-credit hours, that is appropriate to the type of master's degree offered. The capstone experience must be outside of the certificate curriculum and taken once enrolled in the master's program.

While stackable certificate programs should allow sufficient flexibility for the diversity of master's degree programs offered at Ohio State, there are requirements that must be met, which are defined by the Graduate School.

Sutherland shared that—in addition to approval from the Graduate School—this proposal is endorsed by the Academic Program Advisory Council (APAC).

The Council noted that the minimum grade requirement for stackable certificates (B-) is different from the minimum grade requirement for graduate certificates (C-). The Council asked why there is a difference. Miriti noted that a program can require a higher minimum grade. Since students pursuing a stackable certificate will eventually enter a graduate program, a higher minimum grade will ensure that they are ready for graduate work. Miriti added that this proposal is not changing the guidelines for all graduate certificates. Instead, it is creating guidelines specific to stackable certificates.

Miriti commented that students need to be aware that entry to a graduate program is not guaranteed when enrolling in a stackable certificate. Students still need to qualify for the program. The Council noted that advising will be critical.

Marzette moved to add clarifying language to the proposal. The motion was approved.

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

Smith noted that the development of these guidelines was an important step for the University. He expressed his thanks to all involved.

SENATE BILL 1 UPDATE – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith provided background on Senate Bill 1 (SB1), focusing on the Bill's requirement for public colleges to deactivate undergraduate programs with an average of fewer than five graduates per year over a three-year period. The Bill became effective on June 27, 2025, meaning that work needed to begin over the summer when 9-month faculty were on leave.

Over the summer, Smith hosted a series of discussions with the three colleges that were impacted by this section of the bill: Arts and Sciences; Education and Human Ecology; Food, Agricultural, and Environment Sciences. SB1 gave three options related to low enrollment programs:

- **Deactivation**
- **Waiver:** A request for waiver may be requested for a program to continue for up to two years, subject to conditions specified by the Chancellor. If, after two years, the program still does not meet the conditions for continuation in ORC 3345.454, a new waiver request must be approved for the program to continue.
- **Temporary Waiver:** Temporary waivers may be requested for the following:
 - Merging multiple programs into a single program
 - Completing the program elimination process for an individual program including obtaining needed approvals as specified by the institution's academic policies
 - To be eligible for a temporary waiver, the institution must eliminate the program(s) within the upcoming academic year.

Ultimately, each College decided how to handle its low enrollment programs with input from those impacted programs. The College of Arts and Sciences deactivated 4 programs and submitted 3 waivers and 5 temporary waivers. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) deactivated four programs and submitted 7 waivers and 3 temporary waivers. The College of Education and Human Ecology submitted 2 waivers. It should be noted that CFAES had submitted a number of deactivations prior to SB1.

Typically, this Council would approve a program deactivation, but these needed to be submitted outside the normal curricular process to meet the State's deadline. This Council will be involved in future deactivations as this is now an annual process required by the State.

Smith reminded the Council that this process is a State mandate.

Smith reported that the Ohio Department of Higher Education has already approved the deactivations submitted.

After a brief discussion, the Council moved to approve the report that was shared; the motion was approved by all.

Smith thanked everyone for their input and understanding and reiterated his belief in the importance of shared governance.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed