

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

October 22, 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. Meg Daly (Office of Undergraduate Education)
- Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
- Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
- Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
- Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
- Dr. Alex Lindsey (Department Horticulture and Crop Science)

Dr. Caezilia Loibl (Department of Human Sciences)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Mark Moritz (Department of Anthropology)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Barbara Piperata (Department of Anthropology)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)
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

Sutherland thanked Smith for attending the Faculty Council meeting on October 9, 2025, while she was traveling.

There are two Council proposals on the agenda of the October 23, 2025 Steering Committee meeting: the proposal to establish an Executive Master of Health Administration and the proposal to change the name of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research. If approved, the proposals will be placed on the agenda of the University Senate meeting on October 30, 2025.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

At the Faculty Council meeting on October 9, 2025, Smith presented two CAA proposals (see above) and provided an update on Senate Bill 1's Civics Literacy requirement.

This Council should soon see a proposal to establish an undergraduate major in Game and eSports.

Work continues on developing an IT pathway between Columbus State Community College and Ohio State.

The Department of Operations and Business and Analytics and the Department of Internal Medicine recently went through academic program reviews. On October 23, 2025, Smith will attend the College of Pharmacy's exit session with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

The College Credit Plus (CCP) program reports to Smith. He is advocating for another staff position to help with the workload. Currently, 2.75 staff members support 500 students at the Columbus campus and 500 students at the regional campuses.

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

The University announced the creation of the Career Center of Excellence that has a mission to enhance and coordinate the university's career services infrastructure to better prepare undergraduate students for post-graduate success.

Smith is meeting with local superintendents to discuss pathways and workforce development.

Smith served on the site team for the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) re-accreditation review of the University of Chicago.

Smith has convened a group to work on Ohio State's 2027 HLC re-accreditation review. Rebecca Andridge, former chair of this Council, is serving as co-chair with Smith. Williams is also supporting this effort as a faculty fellow in the Office of Academic Affairs.

It is time for the University to review the new General Education (GE) program. Smith has convened a review committee of 12 faculty and staff. In addition, people have been identified as advisors to provide data as needed. Herrmann is representing this Council on the committee. Smith added that—starting in 2026—the Board of Trustees will become more involved in the GE. This review will be helpful to them.

In November 2024, this Council approved a proposal to establish an undergraduate major in ASL (American Sign Language) Access, Equity, and Inclusion. After CAA's approval, the proposal was submitted to the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). ODHE requested some revisions to the proposal. The ASL program made revised the proposal, including a change in the major title, revisions to course titles, and an update to the faculty matrix. The revised proposal will be re-submitted to ODHE.

President Carter announced that he wants to increase the size of the nursing program. The College of Nursing is working on this increase and this Council will likely see change proposals at some point.

Smith shared the news that Ann Christy, former member of this Council, recently passed away after a brief illness. He expressed his gratitude to Christy for her outstanding record of service to the University and for her collegiality and friendship to him.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Changes to the embedded literacies in the Department of Geography – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Geography changed its Embedded Literacies requirements, removing GEOG 3597.03 as a prerequisite for the following programs: Atmospheric Sciences; Geographic Information Sciences; Spatial Analysis; Social and Environmental Geography; and Physical Geography.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change in name to the Anti-Racism in Education Graduate Certificate – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Educational Studies decided to change the name of the Graduate Certificate in Anti-Racism Education to the Graduate Certificate in Social Equity and Inclusion in Education. The name change will better reflect the nature of the program while maintaining its core mission and values.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Updated admission criteria for the Baccalaureate in Nursing programs – College of Nursing**

The College of Nursing updated its admission criteria for the Baccalaureate in Nursing (BSN) programs, changing the second-year admission requirements in response to limited program capacity. Changes include the removal of the essay and online interview components from the application process as well as the introduction of a preference for pre-nursing students.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change in name to the Health-System Pharmacy Administration Specialization – College of Pharmacy**

The College of Pharmacy decided to change the name of the graduate specialization in Health-System Pharmacy Administration to the graduate specialization in Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership. This change will align with terminology used by professional organizations.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Master of Health Administration – College of Public Health**

The College of Public Health revised its Master of Health Administration, replacing the requirement of PUBHLTH 6001 and PUBHLTH 6002 with PUBHLTH 6010. This change results in a reduction of the total number of credit hours required from 60 to 57.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

Smith commented that it is encouraging to see a reduction in credit hours.

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

- **Proposal to establish a Financial Planning Micro Credential – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Caezilia Loibl, Professor, Department of Human Sciences

The Department of Human Sciences proposes to establish a Financial Planning Micro Credential.

Herrmann shared with the Council that micro credentials are relatively new at Ohio State. Micro credentials can be for-credit or non-credit. If the former, the program is less than 11.5-credit hours. A micro credential will have a narrower scope than traditional academic programming.

The Financial Planning Micro Credential will prepare individuals to obtain or maintain employment in the financial advising field. The for-credit option provides a clear pathway for enrolled undergraduate degree-seeking students who are seeking preparation for industry-standard certifying exams to become professional financial advisors. The non-credit option is geared toward non-matriculated learners who

trend toward young, early professionals in business or other industries seeking career changes or to round out their undergraduate degrees to become recognized professionals in financial advising.

For-credit students must complete three 1-credit hour courses. Non-credit students must complete the coursework and exams associated with Certified Financial Planning. Courses are offered online and asynchronous. Exams can be completed online or at an identified testing center.

Admissions will be handled through Ohio State Online.

An assessment plan was provided.

There is a clear need for this programming at the financial planning job market in Ohio is increasing.

No new staff are needed.

There are no for-credit options at peer institutions.

An industry donation will cover the cost of books and professional exams for the next 5 years. Costs will be noted in syllabi once the industry donation is no longer available.

Smith informed the Council that some implementation issues still exist, but those implementation issues should not stop the approval of this proposal. The form of designation (badge, sticker, etc.) is still to be determined. If approved, the program should work with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of the University Registrar on implementation issues.

Herrmann shared that there is Meta data available in the Council's Teams folder for those interested.

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

Smith remarked that micro credentials will be an important part of the University's workforce development initiative. He expects this Council to see more micro credential proposals. A challenge for Ohio State is how to tell and involve industry with our programming.

Smith thanked Herrmann and Dr. Rob Griffiths, Assistant Vice Provost for Workforce Development and Innovation, for their work on this proposal.

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

- **Proposal to revise the PhD and MA in Anthropology – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Mark Moritz, Professor, Department of Anthropology; Barbara Piperata, Professor, Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology proposes to revise the PhD and Master of Arts in Anthropology. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The proposed revisions are designed to reduce the workload for students and to provide more opportunities for specialization. These changes are based off feedback from faculty, students, and external review teams.

Proposed changes include the following:

- Increase number of courses that meet Theory component of coursework
- Allow students to take at most one course outside of the department to meet the Theory component of coursework
- Allow students to take at most one course outside of the department to meet the Methods component of coursework
- Remove Research Design course, Data Collection Workshop, and the Methods elective
- Increase the number of courses that meet the Professional Development component of coursework
- Change the Academic workshop to have two components: a professional development workshop for first-year students and a dissertation research workshop for second- and third-year students

A transition plan is provided for current students.

Changes will go into effect in Autumn 2025.

The Council asked the proposers to confirm the format of the candidacy exam. Piperata replied that the candidacy exam is typically taken in the fourth semester, though students can take it in the fifth semester.

The Council asked what students will miss with the decrease in methods coursework. Moritz replied that anthropology is a very diverse field; as such, method classes could not do justice on topics. He added that data collection will be moved to other classes.

The Council applauded the proposers for the detailed, helpful proposal. The Council also shared its appreciation for the focus on students.

Smith remarked that the Department of Anthropology is very strong. He shared that the Department went through a major transformation about 20 years ago, moving from almost an exclusive focus on cultural anthropology to cultural and physical anthropology. The transition was a great success.

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

- **Proposal to change the name of the Sustainable Plant Systems undergraduate major – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Alex Lindsey, Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science; Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Department of Horticulture and Crop Science proposes to change the name of the Sustainable Plant Systems undergraduate major to the Horticulture and Crop Science undergraduate major.

The name change proposal was initiated after consultation with students, alumni, faculty and staff, and will provide greater recognition by prospective students as well as industry partners. The proposed name change also aligns the major with the department's name and branding initiatives.

There are no changes to the curriculum or structure of the program.

The name change will go into effect in Autumn 2026.

Osborne informed the Council that there will be no issues with transfer from Ohio State ATI as its Sustainable Agriculture program was just deactivated.

The Council noted that other universities use the term 'plant biology' for interdisciplinary studies. Is there a reason why Ohio State does not use this term? Lindsey replied that he is not aware of why the term is not used at Ohio State, but he suspects that it could be that 'horticulture and crop science' seems less genetic and more career-focused than 'plant biology.'

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

UPDATES FROM ULAC – ASSOCIATE DEAN MEG DALY

The University Level Advisory Committee on General Education (ULAC) is formally a subcommittee of this Council. The group oversees assessment and supports policies related to General Education. ULAC plans to submit its annual report in November.

Daly provided an overview of recent work completed by ULAC. She asked the Council for feedback on the following:

- Define Council expectations for final GE category reports
- Clarify how reports will be shared
- Define expectations for responses/changes at the unit-level
- Guidance on how to have a visible presence with the University community

Feedback included the following topics:

- Interested in looking at bookends as some instructors have received negative feedback from students
- There is excitement around AI Fluency
- Listening to student feedback is crucial during the GE review
- It would be beneficial to have data broken down by college, mode of instruction, course size, and final grades
- Need to properly assess the themes
- The Ohio Department of Higher Education ODHE will now require certain learning outcomes in the GE
- It would be great to see a student advisory committee on the GE-particularly one that could follow students through their academic career

After a discussion, Daly shared the following takeaways with the Council:

- The annual report will be submitted to this Council—report format can vary from year to year
- CAA will provide feedback in Spring 2026
- In Spring 2026, ULAC—with input from this Council—will decide on how to share the annual report

Daly thanked the Council for their time and input.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed