COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

October 7, 2026
3-5 PM

MINUTES

Attendance

Faculty:
✓ Dr. Elliot Bendoly (Fisher College of Business)
Dr. Wendy Bowles (College of Nursing)
✓ Dr. Richard Finlay Fletcher (Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy)
✓ Dr. Gary Gao (OSU Extension)
✓ Dr. Neal Hooker (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Albert Isaacs (Department of Neurosurgery)
✓ Dr. Njeri Kagotho (College of Social Work)
Dr. Eugenia Romero (Department of Spanish and Portuguese)
✓ Dr. Christina Roup (Department of Speech and Hearing Science)
✓ Dr. Jaime Sabel (Center for Life Science Education)
✓ Dr. Valarie Williams (Department of Dance)

Staff:
✓ Ms. Ericka Gunn (University Exploration)

Students:
✓ Ms. Patricia Calderon Delgado (CGS, Plant Pathology)
Mr. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)
Mr. Nathan Snizik (USG, Linguistics)
✓ Ms. Lillian Wang (USG, Finance)
Ms. Raegan Wood (IPC, Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program)

Administrator:
✓ Dr. W. Randy Smith (Office of Academic Affairs), Vice Chair

Guests:

Dr. Trevor Brown (Office of Academic Affairs)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Donna Bobbitt-Zeher (OSU Marion)
Dr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
Dr. Becky Mansfield (Department of Geography)
Dr. John Marschhausen (Office of Academic Affairs)

Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Dr. David Matthews (College of Pharmacy)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Maria Miriti (Graduate School)
Dr. Brian Mittendorf (Fisher College of Business)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Kris Paulsen (Department of History of Art)
Dr. Abdoul Sam (Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics)
Dr. Winston Thompson (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Francis Troyan (Department of Teaching and Learning)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)
Dr. Kristin Wickham-Saxon (Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures)
Dr. Shannon Winnubst (Department of History of Art)

The meeting came to order at 3:03 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR VALARIE WILLIAMS

Williams shared that all subcommittees have received assignments.

Williams shared that the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) and the Office of the University Registrar confirmed that all courses listed on the Chase Center minor have or are in the process of receiving approval. It is important to note that the course catalog only shows courses that have been approved with a current effective term or earlier. The Council expressed an interest in learning about the enrollment for Chase courses.

OAA is hosting a series of town halls related to the university's Shared Values. A report on the Shared Values will be embedded in Ohio State's self-study for its re-accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

Smith and Williams are sharing information about the General Education (GE) revision with various groups on campus.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

OAA hosted another successful Assessment Conference on September 25, 2026. Stephen Hundley, Founding Executive Director of the Center for Leading Improvements in Higher Education and Professor of Organizational Leadership at Indiana University Indianapolis, was the featured speaker. The conference will move to the Fawcett Center in 2027, due to construction at the Blackwell.

Smith hosted the Big Ten Academic Alliance Accreditation Network meeting on September 28, 2026 in Chicago. A big topic of conversation was accelerated bachelor's degrees.

Ohio State is undergoing its decennial re-accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission in March 2027. To prepare, Smith is hosting a mock site visit on November 16, with Jocelyn Milner. Milner is a former Vice Provost at the University of Wisconsin.

Smith in Partnership with Professor Rebecca Andridge, is leading the writing of Ohio State's self-study for its re-accreditation. The self-study will address HLC's four required criterion (Mission, Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct, Teaching and Learning for Student Success, and Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning).

OAA continues to host Academic Program Reviews. Programs recently reviewed include Urology and Entomology.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

- **Update to the GIS in Demography – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Sociology updated the curriculum for the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Demography. To reflect changes in Statistics course offerings, the discontinued STAT 5730 course is removed from the elective list and replaced with two 1-credit data science modules: STAT 5731 (Basic R) and STAT 5732 (Intermediate R). This is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Change to the French Minor – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of French and Italian revised its French minor requirements to provide greater student flexibility. The department is replacing the mandatory choice from eight specific 3000-level courses with any 3000-level FRENCH course taught in French. This update accommodates study abroad credits—such as FRENCH 3797—and supports students to achieve the minor as the number of 3000 courses offered per term are reduced. This change is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering curriculum – College of Engineering**

The Department of Civil, Environmental and Geodetic Engineering revised elective options for its Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering program. The update adds new technical and design electives, including ENVENG 5410, MECHENG 5139, and ENGLISH 3305, while removing CIVILEN 5740 and ENVENG 5110 as Civil Engineering design electives because they no longer provide a suitable ABET-aligned design experience. The proposal included details how course additions should be implemented to previous catalog years for Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering while the removal of the two design electives takes effect with the Autumn 2027 catalog.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology curriculum – College of Engineering**

The Department of Integrated Systems Engineering updated the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology curriculum. The update expands student flexibility by permitting Statistics 3470 as an alternative to Statistics 3440 to fulfill core degree requirements. Additionally, either Statistics 3440 or Statistics 3470 will now satisfy the prerequisite for ENGRTEC 4250. This is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Integrated Business and Engineering Software Innovation Track's capstone requirement – College of Engineering**

The Integrated Business and Engineering (IBE) Honors updated the capstone requirements for the IBE Software Innovation track. The update introduces a dedicated two-course capstone sequence, CSE 5917.01H and CSE 5917.02H, focusing on multidisciplinary teamwork, industry projects, and software product development. Five engineering departments—Biomedical, Chemical and Biomolecular, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer, and Industrial and Systems Engineering—will accept this sequence for degree capstone requirements. This is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Usability and User Experience in Healthcare Certificate – College of Medicine**

The Division of Health Information Management and Systems (HIMS) updated course numbers in the Usability and User Experience in Healthcare certificate. HIMS 5650 is now HIMS 5651 and HIMS 5635 is now HIMS 5636, along with updated course titles. This renumbering establishes a clear distinction between certificate offerings and undergraduate courses to eliminate enrollment confusion and registration errors. This is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update on Certificate Offerings – College of Public Health**

The College of Public Health submitted clarified credit overlap policies for its standalone graduate certificate programs: Biostatistics, Foundations of Public Health, Global One Health, and Occupational Safety and Health. When pursued concurrently with a CPH degree, degree students in Public Health may have up to 6 overlapping credits for Global One Health and Occupational Safety and Health. When taken before becoming a Master of Public Health (MPH) student, Biostatistics and Foundations of Public Health allow 100% stacking into the MPH-BIO while Foundations of Public Health also allows 100% stacking into MPH-BMI and MPH-PEP. This is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the MPH Program for Experienced Professionals – College of Public Health**

The College of Public Health updated the Master of Public Health Program for Experienced Professionals. The update modifies required coursework in the Population Health Leadership and Management track specialization by replacing PUBHHMP 7624 (Health Economics for Experienced Professionals) with PUBHHMP 7605 (Introduction to Health Policy). This substitution better aligns with the learning objectives of working practitioners without changing total credit requirements or tuition costs. This is effective Spring 2027.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE B – PROFESSORS GARY GAO, NEAL HOOKER, AND CHRISTINA ROUP; MS. ERICKA GUNN; MS. RAEGAN WOOD

- **Proposal to establish a concentration framework within the Doctor of Pharmacy Program – College of Pharmacy**

Guest: David Matthews, Assistant Dean, College of Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy proposes to establish a concentration framework within the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.

The proposed concentrations will provide structured pathways that integrate elective and experiential coursework with existing curricular elements to support exploration and preparation for distinct pharmacy career paths. Importantly, the introduction of concentrations will not add cost or added time to degree completion. Each concentration will require 10-16 credit hours of coursework compromising elective coursework, concentration-related experiential coursework, and concentration-aligned section of the required Transitions course. All coursework counts towards the PharmD.

The first concentration being proposed is the Rural and Urban Pharmacy Practice Concentration. This concentration will serve to provide more focused didactic coursework and experiential training for students to gain knowledge about the needs of rural and urban populations and equip future pharmacists with the tools to develop and implement innovative care models in these communities.

The College anticipates an enrollment of 10-15 students or 10% of the PharmD class year.

A 4-year, $1.15 million grant from the McKesson Foundation will support (in part) the launch of the Rural and Urban Pharmacy Practice Concentration.

The College of Pharmacy will submit future proposals for concentrations in Pharmacy Industry and Enterprise and Pharmacy Clinician-Scholar.

Matthews informed the Council that the College understands that an Autumn 2026 effective term is not possible.

The Council congratulated the College on its grant. Matthews replied with thanks, adding that this new concentration is only part of the College's urban/rural outreach.

Smith's office will confirm with the Graduate School if this proposal needs to be reviewed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

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

- **Proposal to revise the History of Art BA – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Kris Paulsen, Associate Professor, Department of History of Art; Shannon Winnubst, Interim Chair, Department of History of Art

The Department of History of Art proposes to revise the History of Art major leading to the Bachelor of Arts.

The proposed changes to the History of Art major result from an ongoing, multi-year review of the major, particularly in light of shifts in the Art History field, changes in faculty composition, changes in course offerings, and review of assessment data and student exit surveys. The proposed changes will benefit students by making the major more flexible, helping them to better accommodate double majors and minors, and the proposed changes will benefit faculty by allowing them to focus on delivering the best possible classes rather than fitting into outmoded categories.

Changes to the major include the following:

- Eliminate the geographically and temporally designated areas in our current major in favor of a more open elective plan.
- Raise the cap on the number of 3000-level HISTART courses majors can take.
- Shift focus to hands-on advising rather than ticking off required categories.
- Add a required professionalization course.
- Add a Capstone Reflection Course.
- Lower the required credit hours from 39 to 38.

Gao shared with the Council that Subcommittee B asked the proposers several questions that were answered by the proposers, and those answers are attached to the proposal.

The Council asked how the two new courses ("Careers in Art History" and "Campus Collections") will impact faculty workloads. Paulsen responded that those courses will be taught by a clinical faculty member whose focus is teaching.

The Council remarked that it is odd that the major's introductory courses are at the 4000-level. Representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences agreed that it is unusual but added that it is a long-standing practice of the Department. Smith added that the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of the University Registrar do not give programs enough guidance to require certain numbers for undergraduate courses.

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

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS VALARIE WILLIAMS AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Proposal to establish an undergraduate minor in World Language Education – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Francis Troyan, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

The Department of Teaching and Learning proposes to establish an undergraduate minor in World Language Education.

This new minor has received strong support and concurrence from the College of Arts and Sciences (ASC). This minor will provide foreign language majors in ASC to receive the education and field experience needed to allow them to become certified foreign language teachers in the state of Ohio. The minor is created in response to a critical workforce development need in Ohio for qualified world language educators across Ohio. Students in the following languages will be eligible to add the minor to their undergraduate degree: American Sign Language, Italian, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

Concurrent with the Ohio State approval process, the program is undergoing review by the College of Education and Human Ecology's Educator Preparation Office to ensure that it is aligned with all State and accreditor required standards before implementation.

The new minor requires no new courses and no new resources. It has a proposed implementation date of Autumn 2027.

The Council asked about the demand for world language education. Troyan responded that there is an increasing shortage of world language educators in Ohio. There is a concern that other universities will be burdened with the responsibility of teacher preparation if Ohio State cannot offer programming.

The Council asked if the proposal was developed in consultation with the language departments in the College of Arts and Sciences. Troyan responded in the affirmative.

Troyan clarified to the Council that this minor was developed to replace the World Language Education major that was deactivated due to its status of a low enrollment program.

The Council asked if the Department considered developing a certificate that could be offered to non-OSU students. Troyan responded that handling teaching placements for non-OSU students may be difficult, but it is certainly an option that can be considered in the future.

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

- **Proposal to revise the ASL Minor – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Kristin Wickham-Saxon, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures)

The Center for Languages, Literatures and Cultures proposes to revise the American Sign Language (ASL) minor.

Since the first approval of the ASL Studies minor in 2020, the program has grown, and in April the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) approved the new ASL major. With this, the program hired new faculty, support staff, collaborated on hires with other units, and the course offerings have expanded.

With this change, the minor program is shifting one core course from the core to an elective, removing three courses from the major taught outside ASL, correcting four course titles, updating ASL 4189S as a 4-credit hour High Impact Practice (HIP) GE Themed Citizenship course, and adding 5 new courses as created by ASL faculty as elective options.

Students in the current minor will not be impacted.

The Department of English and the Department of Linguistics have provided concurrence of the removed courses.

The Council congratulated Wickham-Saxon on the approval of its new major and asked if any students are enrolled yet. Wickham-Saxon responded that the program has received lots of inquiries but only has two declared majors so far. She suspects that some current students would have pursued the major had it been available earlier in their careers. She added that there is quite a bit of interest and excitement from the community.

Wickham-Saxon confirmed that the ASL program does share a lot of overlap with Speech and Hearing Science, and the areas are developing a better relationship.

The Council asked if Ohio State's ASL programs will compete with Columbus State Community College's (CSCC) ASL program. Wickham-Saxon responded that the coursework offered at the two institutions is incredibly different as the CSCC program trains students to be interpreters. The Council remarked that it would be helpful to engage more with CSCC.

Wickham-Saxon confirmed that the program's citizenship course meets the requirements outlined by the State.

Wickham-Saxon remarked to the Council that faculty and staff in the program are very devoted to its mission and success.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Geography MA – College of Arts and Sciences**

- **Proposal to revise the Geography PhD – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Becky Mansfield, Professor, Department of Geography

The Department of Geography proposes to revise the Geography majors leading to the Master of Arts (MA) and PhD. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The revisions come in response to the changing field of Geography as well as suggestions from their 2024 Program Review, internal assessment practices, and student feedback. The revised curriculum reformats aspects of the first-year core curriculum. The revisions are detailed in their response to academic, professional, and workforce needs of Geography's 29 graduate students.

Due to the accumulation of changes over time, the current programs differ from those that were approved in the last formal review, which occurred in 2011 for the 2012 transition to semesters. Thus, in addition to proposing a new curriculum, the proposal serves to update aspects of the programs that have changed over the past 15 years but are not changing from current practice. Assessment practices are carefully laid out, the alignment with workforce priorities in the state of Ohio, and in response to state and regional employer demand.

Changes to both degrees are outlined below.

Mansfield informed the Council that the changes will make faculty workload assignments easier.

The Council asked what will happen with the content of the job course. Mansfield responded that the content will be embedded in other courses.

The Council asked about the number of graduate students in the program. Mansfield replied that most students are PhD candidates who already have a master's degree. The Department anticipates that the demographics may change as visa rules change.

The Council applauded the Department for a creative proposal.

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

Smith informed the Council that the Department is highly ranked internationally with strong leadership.

<u>Master of Arts</u>

Nine 1-credit-hour seminars replace traditional 3-credit hour courses and will run sequentially throughout fall and spring semesters so that students will engage the same core material with greater

focus and reduced redundancy. The total number of credit hours in core courses is unchanged, at 9-credit hours.

The MA requirements are detailed on page 18 of the proposal with nine 1-credit-hour core courses, four 3-credit-hour seminars, and 3-credit hours of Thesis 7999. If MA students serve as GTAs, they take an additional 1-4 credits of Teaching Practice, totaling 24-28 credit hours for the MA. The full faculty approved the changes and recognized that due to the extent of these changes, the proposal will be a change of greater than 50%, triggering additional levels of approval.

PhD

Nine 1-credit-hour seminars replace traditional 3-credit hour courses and will run sequentially throughout fall and spring semesters so that students will engage the same core material with greater focus and reduced redundancy. The total number of credit hours for core courses is unchanged, at 9-credit hours.

The PhD requirements are detailed on page 20 of the proposal with nine 1-credit-hour core courses, four 3-credit-hour seminars, totaling 21 credit hours pre-candidacy. If students also serve as GTAs, they take up to an additional 4-credit hours of Teaching Practice.

Post-candidacy courses include up to 15-credit hours across four course offerings. Candidates take electives by choice to meet the total credit hour requirement. The full faculty approved the changes and recognized that due to the extent of these changes, the proposal will be a change of greater than 50%, triggering additional levels of approval.

- **Proposal to transition the Master of Applied Economics to an online delivery – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Abdoul Sam, Professor, Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics

The Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics proposes to transition the Master of Applied Economics (MAE) to online delivery. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The department has worked since 2023 to design a delivery mode that responds to the need to expand training opportunities for adult learners in Ohio and to enhance workforce development in a high-demand technical field. These changes reflect the department's commitment to academic rigor while enhancing access to high-quality applied economics training for working professionals and other students for whom the traditional campus-based format is not feasible.

All current students except for one will graduate in May 2026. The MAE Faculty Director will serve as advisor to the approximately 50 students anticipated in the online program. A new staff member has already been hired who will support the online MAE students

A market analysis was conducted by Ohio State Online (OSO), and there is a signed MOU with OSO. Letters of concurrence were received.

The Council asked if the Department has any interest in partnerships with other units at Ohio State. Sam responded enthusiastically to the question.

The Council asked if international students will be able to enroll in the program. Sam responded that the Department would welcome international students but must work within the law. Osborne added that the College will consult with State Authorization and the Office of International Affairs on what is allowed. The Council noted that the program may be able to partner with a student's home institution.

Sam reminded the Council that the program is intended for working professionals. The Department offers other options that may be a better fit for international students.

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

- **Proposal to establish a Master in Management degree – Fisher College of Business**

Guest: Brian Mittendorf, Associate Dean, Fisher College of Business

The Fisher College of Business (FCOB) proposes to establish a Master in Management degree. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The proposed Master in Management (MiM) is a two-semester, 33-credit hour, tagged degree designed to provide key management and business skills to students whose recent undergraduate studies were in fields outside of business. The timeline is designed so that students complete it in two consecutive semesters, typically directly after completing their undergraduate degree. MiM students will matriculate in autumn semester and complete the program in spring semester. The program is in response to demands from students who want a similar result of a 2-year Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, but who are reluctant to leave full-time employment for full-time graduate work.

The program consists of 27-credit hours of required core courses (11 courses) and 6-credit hours of elective coursework. There is an option for students to take 50% of their program in STEM-focused courses such as accounting, finance, operations management, and data analysis. The program has a set of goals and learning outcomes, a curricular map, and will continue to meet the standards set by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for the college's accreditation standards.

Projections are 30 students in the first year with 50 and 65 in the second and third years, respectively. Pricing and surcharges for out of state are in line with peer institutions.

Advising sheets, financial impact projections, and letters of support/concurrence are included along with short CVs of faculty involved.

Mittendorf informed the Council that Fisher partnered with other colleges on what they could offer that would be appealing to students who did not major in business as undergraduate students, but are interested in pursuing a career in business. The MiM encourages students to take courses outside of FCOB for a broader educational experience.

The Council remarked that 33-credit hours is high for a two-year program. Mittendorf agreed but noted that the credit hours are consistent with peer programs.

Mittendorf shared that Fisher is interested in offering the MiM with newly developed accelerated bachelor's degrees. The College is also developing relationships with private liberal arts institutions as the program may be appealing to their graduates.

Smith remarked that FCOB is constantly monitoring the external climate for what is in demand.

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

GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) REVIEW DISCUSSION WITH INTERIM PROVOST TREVOR BROWN – PROFESSORS MEG DALY AND W. RANDY SMITH

Smith gave the Council a background of the GE review process that was planned when the new GE was implemented in 2022 as well as an overview of the GE review that is now required by the State with House Bill 96. House Bill 96 (HB96) requires that Ohio public institutions complete a comprehensive review of their General Education curriculum requirements. There are two key deadlines attached to HB96.

- **December 2026:** Boards of trustees must pass a formal *General Education Curriculum Review Resolution*.
- **June 2027:** Boards of trustees must pass a *General Education Curriculum Changes Resolution* outlining finalized updates

Daly gave an overview of the review work that the University-Level Advisory Council on the GE (ULAC) was in the process of doing when the HB96 mandate was announced. ULAC's work included collecting data (course enrollments, grading of online courses, etc.) and asking for feedback from different groups.

Brown shared that the Board of Trustees has a high degree of interest in the GE, inclusive of the items in ULAC's review and some of the themes. Given the natural alignment between the university's review and the HB96 mandate, it was decided to combine the two reviews. Brown ensured the Council that the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of the President believe in academic freedom, diversity of thought, and student choice, and shared these tenets with the Board.

Brown, Daly, and Smith invited the Council to discussion. Discussion included a concern over the transparency of the process and the extent of substantive change being proposed, along with the Board's interest in the GE.

Smith reminded everyone that any change to the GE must be approved by this Council.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed