COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

September 16, 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. Anika Anthony (Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning)
Dr. Amy Barnes (Department of Educational Studies)
Dr. Eric Bielefeld (Department of Speech and Hearing Science)
Ms. Megan Doolin (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Alex Grieco (College of Medicine)
Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)
Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)

Mr. Pete Locascio (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. John Marschhausen (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Jacqueline Meshelmiah (College of Social Work)
Dr. Maria Miriti (Graduate School)
Dr. Brian Mittendorf (Fisher College of Business)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. George Pinteris (Department of Finance)
Dr. Scott Shearer (Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering)
Dr. Winston Thompson (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)
Mr. Terondrick Waller (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Tansel Yilmazer (Department of Human Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR VALARIE WILLIAMS

Williams shared that the following Council members will serve on the Graduate School / Council on Academic Affairs Combined Curriculum Committee: Bendoly, Kagotho, Miles, and Sabel.

CAA subcommittee assignments were shared via email. Please reach out to Williams with any questions.

Williams shared that Smith's office is reviewing the courses listed on the Chase Center minor. She will update the Council at its meeting on October 7, 2026.

The following CAA proposals are on the agenda of the University Senate meeting on September 17, 2026: the proposal to establish a PhD program in Medical Physics and the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering.

The Office of Academic Affairs is hosting a series of Shared Values Townhalls in relation to the university's upcoming re-accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith reminded the Council that Dr. John Marschhausen, former Superintendent of Dublin City Schools, has joined the Office of Academic Affairs as an Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Program Pathways.

Beth Frey, Project Manager in the Office of Academic Affairs, is observing today's meeting as part of her graduate program.

The University's Assessment Conference is on September 25, 2026. So far, there are over 200 people registered for the event.

The College Credit Plus (CCP) Office hired a new advisor to help with their workload.

Smith attended the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Oversight Board meeting, hosted by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), on September 11, 2026. Discussion topics included 90-credit hour degree programs, reverse transfer, and re-establishment of ODHE's General Education Oversight Committee.

Smith is convening the annual meeting of the Big Ten Academic Alliance Accreditation Network in Chicago, IL on September 28, 2026. Smith encouraged Council members to get involved in the Big Ten Network as they offer informative programs.

The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) is searching for a new Director of the Sustainability Institute. Josh Knights is serving as the Interim Director until a permanent director is hired. Smith is leading the search on behalf of OAA.

OAA requires the review of an academic unit on an eight-year cycle for departments and a 10-year cycle for colleges that are a single TIU. The Department of Urology has a review later this week.

The Higher Learning Commission's Site Visit will occur on March 1-2, 2027.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

- **Update to the curriculum for the Department of Biomedical Engineering – College of Engineering**

The Department of Biomedical Engineering updates its undergraduate curriculum sheet to reflect permitted double counting between the Health and Wellbeing GE Theme and non-engineering Career Electives, setting a 127-credit minimum. The update permits PHYSIO 3200 as a substitution for BIOMEDE 2800 and adds EEOB 4840 and MICROBIO 4800 to the non-engineering Career Course list. This change is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) updated the ECE undergraduate program, adding ECE 5024 (Introduction to Hardware Security) to the approved technical electives list in the Electronic Circuits domain for Electrical Engineering and the Cybersecurity domain for Computer Engineering. This course adds an elective choice without changing degree requirements. This change is effective Autumn 2026 and applies to students under the previous curriculum.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Humanitarian Engineering Minor – College of Engineering**

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences updated the Humanitarian Engineering minor, removing CRPLAN 5798 and EDUCST 5189 from the minor's pre-approved Community Based Learning Experience options. Students may still petition to count these courses on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the department identified ENR 5797.09 may be applied to the minor in the Global Perspectives category for students participating in the approved Tanzania program. This change is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Integrated Systems Engineering curriculum – College of Engineering**

The Department of Integrated Systems Engineering (ISE) updated the ISE undergraduate curriculum, adding ISE 4230 (Decision Analytics for Integrated Systems Engineering) as a technical elective option across three undergraduate degree tracks: Management Systems and Operations Research, Manufacturing, and Human Systems Integration. This change is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

The Knowlton School of Architecture updated the Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture curriculum sheet, specifying LARCH 5111 (GIS) fulfills the Tech seminar requirement in the Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture. This update reflects the creation of a permanent course number for the GIS topic previously taught under a seminar number, LARCH 4410. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

The Council asked if AI Fluency courses will be presented as informational items. Smith responded that the initial submissions will be handled similar to Embedded Literacies. After the initial submissions, the courses will be handled as informational items.

SENATE BILL 1 LOW ENROLLMENT PROGRAM DEACTIVATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith reminded the Council that the review of low enrollment programs is now an annual process mandated by the State. In late spring, OAA shared the list of low enrollment programs with the colleges. Units have three options for programs meeting the definition of low enrollment:

- Request for Waiver: A request for a waiver may be required for a program to continue for up to two years, subject to conditions by the Chancellor.
- Request for Temporary Waiver: A temporary waiver may be requested when merging multiple programs into a single program or when a unit needs more time to obtain the internal approvals

needed for program elimination. To be eligible for a temporary waiver, the institution must commit to eliminating the program within the upcoming academic year.
- Deactivation

The following programs met the definition of low enrollment:

- Fisher College of Business: Special major leading to the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences: Business Management major leading to the Associate of Applied Science
- College of Arts and Sciences: Jazz Studies major leading to the Bachelor of Music; Geography major leading to the Bachelor of Arts; and Earth Sciences major leading to the Bachelor of Arts

All five majors applied for waivers, and all five waivers were denied. ODHE did not provide an explanation and there is no chance to appeal. All majors must be deactivated.

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences has provided a request to deactivate its Business Management major leading to the Associate of Applied Science. After this meeting, the deactivation will be sent to the Board of Trustees followed by ODHE.

Osborne informed the Council that the college is disappointed as the current program enrollment is over 15, but the waiver was denied regardless.

Smith remarked that—moving forward—colleges need to better monitor programs as this is now an annual process.

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

- **Proposal to change the name of the Construction Systems Management major to the Construction Management major – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Scott Shearer, Chair, Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering

The Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering proposes to change the name of the Construction Systems Management major to the Construction Management major.

The name change comes after discussion and consultation with industry stakeholders and is in response to the need to align with academic peers across the nation. 'Construction Management' (CM) is the nationally recognized degree designation and aligns with the program names leading programs at institutions such as Purdue University, University of Florida, Michigan State University, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and University of Washington. Within Ohio, competitor institutions including Kent State University, University of Cincinnati, and Bowling Green State University similarly employ the CM title. Similarly, the two-year programs at Columbus State Community College and Ohio State ATI utilize this title, both of which provide important pathways to the four-year degree program.

From a workforce perspective, employers consistently seek graduates with competencies in project management, cost estimating, scheduling, safety management, contract administration, and construction technologies. These expectations are closely aligned with the body of knowledge defined by accreditation organizations such as American Council for Construction Education and industry groups like Associated General Contractors of America. Importantly, employers overwhelmingly use Construction Management in job titles, position descriptions, and recruitment pipelines.

There are no changes to the current curriculum or structure of the major as part of this proposal, and no current students will be impacted. Additionally, the OSU Construction Systems Management Industry Advisory Council (IAC) provided support for the change.

The change is effective Autumn 2027.

Shearer informed the Council that attracting students to the program is difficult because of the program title. Many potential students were directed to Ohio State ATI rather than the Columbus campus. Shearer added that graduates of the program are extremely successful as most typically secure a job within six months of graduation. Osborne added that the program is popular with military-affiliated students.

The Council asked if anything will be lost with the title change. Shearer replied in the negative. He shared that the program spawned from the Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) major in the 1960s. The faculty at that time wanted the program's title to reflect the ASM background.

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

- **Proposal to move the Master of Science in Translational Pharmacology program from the College of Medicine to the College of Pharmacy – College of Medicine**

Guest: Alex Grieco, Associate Dean, College of Medicine

The College of Medicine proposes to move the Master of Science in Translational Pharmacology program from the College of Medicine to the College of Pharmacy. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The Master of Science in Translational Pharmacology (MSTPh) has historically been housed in the College of Medicine; over time however, both the share of teaching and administrative work shifted increasingly to the College of Pharmacy. At present, the College of Pharmacy now oversees all major administrative, curricular, and advising functions of the program. Therefore, the College of Medicine is requesting to rehouse the MSTPh program to the College of Pharmacy to better align with the program's current structure and administration, without any projected change to the experience for learners.

The proposal includes supporting letters from the college deans. Both colleges will continue to deliver coursework for the program and degree expectations will not change. The same opportunities or overall experience of the learners in the program or within its constituent tracks will continue.

The Council asked if there are any negative consequences to moving the program. Grieco replied in the negative, adding that this change will align the program with peers.

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

Smith informed the Council that this proposal does not need to go to ODHE as where a degree is housed is an internal matter.

- **Proposal to establish a Combined Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering / Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering degree program – College of Engineering**

Guest: Megan Doolin, Graduate Academic Advisor and Staff Assistant, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering proposes to establish a combined Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering / Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering degree program. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The proposal creates a formal, efficient Bachelor of Science / Master of Science (BS / MS) pathway that allows qualified students to apply select undergraduate technical elective coursework toward graduate degree requirements, supporting interdisciplinary preparation and timely degree to completion. It also complements the other combined degree offerings in the department and ensures consistency across all programs. Five goals/benefits for students involved in the program are detailed in the proposal.

Aerospace Engineering students are required to earn a minimum of 9-credit hours of technical elective credit to complete degree requirements. The Aerospace Engineering program has three technical elective tracks available to students. The standard track technical elective program allows students to take nuclear engineering courses that can be double counted for the Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering (NE) program. Four core courses (12 credit hours) make up the graduate degree regardless of either the Thesis or Experiential track:

- For Thesis, 9-credit hours of NE and math/stats coursework followed by 9-credit hours of NE thesis research with the advisor;
- For Experiential, 15-credit hours of NE and math/stats coursework followed by 3-credit hours of NE thesis research with the advisor.

A timeline for application of early Autumn or early Spring is provided along with notes on working with an advisor to the two different pathways. It also addresses any additional coursework the advisor deems necessary.

The Council asked about expected enrollment. Doolin responded that she does not have hard numbers, but there are already a handful of students interested in the combined degree.

The Council asked about the outreach plans for the program. Doolin responded that—in addition to advisors speaking to current students—the program will be highlighted in the Fall Fair, which is the department's largest recruitment event.

The Council asked when the graduate tuition rate begins. Miriti replied that graduate tuition does not begin until a student completes his/her undergraduate degree.

Smith remarked that the Council may start seeing more of these combined degree proposals as accelerated bachelor's degrees are introduced to the University.

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

- **Proposal to establish a combined Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) and Specialized Masters in Business-Finance (SMF) – Fisher College of Business**

Guests: Brian Mittendorf, Associate Dean, Fisher College of Business; George Pinteris, Associate Professor-Clinical, Department of Finance

The Department of Finance proposes establishimg a combined Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Specialized Masters in Business-Finance (BSBA / SMF). This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The BSBA / SMF combined program leverages the strengths of the undergraduate BSBA and the 36-credit hour SMF, consistently ranked a top 10 program, to let high-achieving undergraduates earn a BSBA and SMF in 4.5 years. This accelerated pathway builds advanced analytical, technical and professional skills earlier in students' careers, positioning them for success and growth in finance roles.

The combined BSBA/SMF degree consists of 148 unique credit hours as follows:

- BSBA Degree Minimum Credit Hours (before double counting): 121
- SMF Degree Minimum Credit Hours (before double counting): 36
- Credit Hours with Double Counting toward BSBA and SMF Degree: 9
- Unique Combined Program Credit Hours: 148

Sufficient and personalized advising allows undergraduate academic advisors to guide these students to receive the 9-credit hours of overlap credits through the core SMF courses. In the past, SMF students typically join the program straight out of the undergraduate program and have not encountered problems managing these credit hours in the 15 years of the program. The proposal provides a table for a possible BSBA / SMF course structure that includes the credit hours by semester for the three-semester SMF curriculum (13.5, 13.5, and 9, respectively).

The proposers noted that the combined degree program will allow finance majors to double count their high-level finance undergraduate coursework, which results in them getting their first semester of their graduate program at an undergraduate tuition rate.

The Council noted that the proposal mentions that graduates of the combined degree program should expect higher salaries. What kind of salary can graduates expect? Pinteris replied that similar programs have graduates making approximately $20,000 more per year than their undergraduate counterparts.

The Council asked if the revised BSBA core will work with the proposed combined degree. Mittendorf replied in the affirmative, noting that the revised BSBA core allows for more flexibility in the various specializations offered by Fisher. In addition, the upper-level finance courses were not impacted by the BSBA core revision.

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

Smith noted that this proposal is a good workforce development story.

The Council asked if there is any concern about the possibility of a student completing a combined degree program in less than four years. In theory, a NFYS could come in at rank two and complete both programs in 3.5 years. Smith responded that this particular concern has not reached him. It was added that it is not necessarily a bad thing if an ambitious student completes two programs in 3.5 years.

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Eric Bielefeld, Chair, Department of Speech and Hearing Science

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science proposes to revise the Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology (MA-SLP). This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The Department is providing greater choice to its students in response to student survey feedback, exit interviews with the chair of the department, and based on changes in the field which have moved toward those focused on pediatric and adult medical speech-language pathology. The proposed change centers around a course moving from a requirement to an advanced elective.

Currently, SPHHRNG 6150 (The SLP's Role Working with Individuals with Autism) is a required three-credit course in the second year of the program. After analyzing all feedback, the program director chose to remove it as a required course and revise this course from 3-credits to 2 -credits serving as an advanced elective. Students noted that—while the information is valuable to the field—it is redundant as they glean this information from multiple courses and in practicums throughout their time to degree. This change will serve students focused in the area and who plan to work in schools, pediatric clinics, or clinics with a focus on autism. This will fulfill the purpose of elective courses where students (a) extend their studies in directions suited to their interests, (b) meet non-thesis requirements for the MA-SLP, and (c) meet requirements for school certification by the State of Ohio Department of Education and enable one to obtain school licensure in Ohio and other states. The revised course syllabus is included as are the rubrics for all assignments and activities.

The Department has a transition plan in place for the incoming cohort of 2026. The revision of the MA-SLP follows the standards of the accrediting body, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

The Council did not have any questions.

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

Smith informed the Council that it will see more proposals from this department in the coming months.

- **Proposal to revise the MA in Higher Education and Student Affairs – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Amy Barnes, Associate Professor-Clinical, Department of Educational Studies

The Department of Educational Studies proposes to revise the Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA). This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The previous 39-credit hour program will now become a 40-credit hour program. Revisions include the requirement of 6-credits of Foundational Coursework, moving ESHESA 7540 from the Required Specialization Coursework list to the Foundational Coursework list, and adding one credit hour to the Required Specialization Coursework list (increasing from 18- to 19-credit hours).

Additional revisions include the following:

- Requiring ES HESA 7530 (Practicum in Higher Education and Student Affairs) as a required course
- Including five newer courses that have been approved in the last 5 years to the program sheet as options

A transition plan is in place for application of the new requirements only for those matriculating after the revision approvals. The changes are in response to the need to align with national curricular standards set forth by the Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS).

The Council asked if students must complete the practicum in the summer. Barnes replied in the negative, adding that most students do choose to complete the requirement in the summer. The Council asked that the language in the student handbook be clarified.

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

- **Proposal to rename the Consumer and Family Financial Services BS Program – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Tansel Yilmazer, Professor, Department of Human Sciences

The Department of Human Sciences proposes to rename the Consumer and Family Financial Services program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology.

The proposal changes the name of the program from Consumer and Family Financial Services (CFFS) to Consumer Economics and Financial Planning. The name change will reflect the evolution of the field, align more clearly with workforce and professional identities, enhance campus and external recognition, and better represent the curriculum, faculty expertise, and career outcomes associated with the program. The CFFS name no longer fully captures the program's strong emphasis on data analysis, statistics, and economic reasoning that now defines a substantial portion of the curriculum nor its lead-up to the educational requirements necessary for graduates to take the Certified Financial Planner examination.

Renaming the major to Consumer Economics and Financial Planning is a strategic, student-centered, and professionally grounded step that reflects current workforce realities, improves campus and external recognition, aligns with existing minors, matches peer institutional practices, and highlights faculty expertise. This change will enhance recruitment, advising clarity, and the long-term visibility of the program while preserving its academic foundations. There are no changes to the current curriculum or structure of the major as part of this proposal, and no current students will be impacted.

Concurrence was provided by the Department of Economics and the Department of Finance. Concurrence was not officially sought from the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Developmental Economics (AEDE), but faculty in AEDE are aware of the change.

The proposed change is effective Autumn 2027.

Yilmazer confirmed that graduates of this program go on to be Certified Financial Planners (CFP). This program is the only one on campus that officially prepares students for the CFP exam as it offers the majority of the required coursework.

Griffiths reminded the Council that last year it approved a micro credential related to the CFP exam.

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

Smith informed the Council that there is a long history between the Department of Human Sciences and the Fisher College of Business. There is now a good working relationship between the programs.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed