

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

September 17, 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:

Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Anika Anthony (Michael V. Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning)
Dr. Noelle Arnold (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Susan Cole (Department of Molecular Genetics)

Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Griffiths (Ohio State Online)
Ms. Anne Gruden (Office of the University Registrar)
Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Alan Kalish (Office of Undergraduate Education)
Dr. Namiko Kunimoto (Center for Ethnic Studies)
Dr. Alex Lindsey (Department of Horticulture and Crop Science)
Dr. Helen Malone (Office of Academic Affairs)
Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Leah Pyter (Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)

The meeting came to order at 3 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR SUE SUTHERLAND

Sutherland thanked Smith for leading the meeting on September 3, 2025, in her absence.

The minutes from the meeting on September 3, 2025, will be reviewed at an upcoming Council meeting.

The proposal to revise the Coaching Minor will be reviewed at a future meeting as some additional edits are needed.

VOTE ON REVISED STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTION TOOL – PROFESSORS SUSAN COLE, MS. ANNE GRUDEN, DR. ALAN KALISH, AND VICE PROVOST HELEN MALONE

In November 2023, the Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) Subcommittee of the Council was charged to identify a new instrument and/or strategy for gathering student feedback on courses and instructors. The SEI Subcommittee was renamed the Survey of the Student Learning Experience (SSLE) and co-led by Cole and Kalish.

Cole and Kalish gave the Council an overview of the subcommittee's charge, guiding principles, revision process, pilot program, and the limitations of student feedback.

Implementation is planned for this semester (Autumn 2025). Units with existing Office of Academic Affairs permission to use alternate tools may continue to do so this year with addition of the newly required questions from the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE).

Cole and Kalish shared previews of what the SSLE tool's class detail report will look like. In addition to the SSLE, Ohio State purchased MLY, a machine-learning tool trained on student feedback to summarize and interpret responses to open-ended questions.

The SSLE Committee is asking this Council to:

- Approve the final wording and instructions/context of the SSLE (including ODHE required questions)
- Give Input on/approval of the committee's recommendations for the class detail report
- Support the recommendation that raw comments will not be included in class detail reports, but will be accessible in the MLY dashboard to the instructor and their TIU head

Malone thanked the SSLE Committee for their work on this project. The University has been working on SEI-related issues for decades.

Cole and Kalish welcomed comments and questions from the Council. A brief discussion occurred.

The Council decided to vote on each of the three points.

Sutherland moved approval of the first request; it was approved unanimously.

Sutherland moved approval of the second request; it was approved unanimously.

For the third, there was a friendly amendment to add 'or designee' after 'TIU head'. The Council agreed that the SSLE Committee can discuss this amended language if anyone has a concern. Sutherland moved approval of the third request; it was approved unanimously.

Smith remarked that this process has been collegial and cooperative—unlike the original creation of the SEI, which was long and contentious.

Smith informed the Council that this is the last approval needed. The SSLE Committee will provide an update to Faculty Council at its meeting on October 9, 2025.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) released its report on mathematics education and transfer.

As Smith has mentioned previously, the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) recently underwent an efficiency report. The report encourages COAM to change the culture of academic misconduct at Ohio State from punitive to educational. In addition, COAM needs to reconcile the handling of AI in COAM cases given the Provost's AI Fluency Initiative.

Columbus City Schools (CCS) is moving to a focus on Career-Technical Education (CTE). Ohio State's STEAMM Rising Initiative, an initiative for CCS teachers, will also move towards a CTE focus.

Smith chaired the annual Big Ten Academic Alliance Accreditation Network meeting in Chicago, IL on September 15, 2025. The group had the opportunity to hear from the University of Minnesota and the University of Chicago who are currently undergoing re-accreditation reviews with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). HLC has revised its criteria for re-accreditation; new criteria are mission-driven.

President Carter gave his State of the University Address today. The address highlighted the direction that the University will take over the next few years.

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

- **Proposal to change the name of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research – College of Medicine**

Guest: Leah Pyter, Director, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research

The Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research in the College of Medicine proposes to change its name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology.

When Pyter joined the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research (IBMR), she did a “listening tour” with various constituents. Feedback that she consistently received during the tour is that the name of the Institute reflects neither the historic nor current research niche and is confusing to a variety of audiences (scientists, the public, donors, etc.).

The Institute’s niche is interdisciplinary research in the field of psychoneuroimmunology, or how psychology/behavior intersects with the communication between the nervous and immune systems. To better reflect its mission, the Institute will change its name to the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology. This name stems from the flagship scientific journal, *Brain, Behavior, and Immunology*.

There are no programmatic impacts with this name change.

The Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity concurred with the name change.

The Institute would like to change to be effective immediately in time for their Research Day on November 5, 2025.

Pyter clarified to the Council that ‘behavioral medicine’ is an actual field, but it is not a field studied by the Institute.

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

Smith informed the Council that the proposal will need to be approved by the University Senate.

- **Proposal to establish a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Asian American Studies – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Namiko Kunimoto, Director, Center for Ethnic Studies

The Center for Ethnic Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences proposes to establish a Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization (GIS) in Asian American Studies. This proposal has been reviewed by the Graduate School/Council on Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The GIS will enable students to pursue an academic concentration in the rapidly growing field of Asian American Studies (AAS). Students will have the unique opportunity to explore a range of questions and issues—such as immigration and racialization, ethnic and cultural identity formation, gender and sexuality, war and imperialism, transnational social linkages, and cross-cultural expressive practices.

The AAS GIS will require 12-credit hours of graduate-level coursework. The hours must include at least three different courses, at least one of which must be taught by a faculty member affiliated with AAS. At least 9-credit hours must be from outside the home graduate program. Students can select their courses from an approved list.

The Center for Ethnic Studies hopes to enroll 8-10 students in the first years.

The requested effective term was Autumn 2025.

Letters of concurrence were received.

The Council asked why some of the courses are asterisked on the course list. Kunimoto responded that the asterisk indicates that there is AAS content.

Kunimoto confirmed that the projected enrollment of the AAS GIS is comparable to other GIS programs offered by the Center.

The Council asked why the enrollment in GIS programs is typically small. It was noted that enrollments are small, but GIS programs package courses that are already being taken for a transcriptable credential. A GIS is not a stand-alone program.

The Council asked how many GIS programs are offered at the University. Smith responded that he did not know off-hand, but that the information is available online.

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

- **Proposal to establish an Undergraduate Academic Certificate (categories 1a and 2) in Urban Agriculture and Community Food Production Systems – 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 establish Undergraduate Academic Certificate (categories 1a and 2) in Urban Agriculture and Community Food Production Systems.

The Urban Agriculture and Community Food Production Systems (UACFPS) Certificate will provide students with an introductory understanding of agronomic factors related to food and ornamental plant production in urban environments. Upon completion of the certificate, students will have critical analytical skills that will help them understand the plant and soil requirements necessary for small-scale urban food production.

The UACFPS Certificate consists of a minimum of 12 credit hours (5 required hours and minimum of 7 elective hours). The certificate is open to all students at OSU as long as course prerequisites are met.

Courses will be offered in a hybrid manner.

The effective term is Spring 2026.

Letters of concurrence were received. The Department of Food Science and Technology did not respond to the concurrence request.

Osborne noted that students have expressed interest in this kind of academic programming. The certificate will provide hands-on experiences.

The Council noted that the certificate title does not reflect a focus on plants and asked why there are no Animal Sciences courses in the certificate. Osborne responded that most urban communities have restrictions on raising livestock.

The Council asked why the Department of Food Science and Technology did not respond to the concurrence request. Osborne responded that she did not know if there was a specific reason but noted that food science has a different scope.

Members of the Council expressed a desire for the certificate to have more variation in topics as the certificate is focused on plants, or a desire for the content to be better reflected in the certificate's title.

Sutherland moved approval of the recommendation; it was approved by majority vote.

- **Proposal to establish an Undergraduate Academic Certificate (categories 1a and 2) in Plant Breeding – 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 establish Undergraduate Academic Certificate (categories 1a and 2) in Plant Breeding.

The Plant Breeding (PB) Certificate will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of breeding in the plant sciences, including agronomy, horticulture, and turf science. Upon completion of the certificate, students will have critical analytical skills that will help them in a plant breeding career.

The PB certificate requires the completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours (8-9 credit hours of required courses and 3-4 credit hours of elective courses). In addition, there are three prerequisite courses for the certificate.

The effective term is Spring 2026.

Letters of concurrence were received.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Changes to the Embedded Literacies in the School of Music – College of Arts and Sciences**

The School of Music changed its Embedded Literacies (EL) requirements, updating the list of courses with the EL designation.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Changes to the Embedded Literacies for the Philosophy, Politics and Economics Major – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Program in the College of Arts and Sciences changed its Embedded Literacies (EL) requirements, updating the list of courses with the EL designation.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Corrections to the AGSYSMT BS AGR Specializations – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

The Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics made changes to its specializations in the Agricultural Systems Major (Agro-Environmental Systems, Digital and Precision Agriculture Systems, Food and Bio-Manufacturing Systems, Machine Automation Systems, and Precision Livestock Systems) in, correcting minor errors on the advising sheets.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the elective list for the Health Sciences program – College of Medicine**

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences updated its Health Science major, adding new courses to the Patient/Client Elective Options and the Science Elective Options lists.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Update to the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences major and establishment of an Early Assurance Program Partnership – College of Pharmacy**

The College of Pharmacy made the following updates:

- Update to the degree audit for the Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences major, adding the “either/or” rule to the Physics requirement
- Establishment of an Early Assurance Program (EAP) with Ohio University (OU), guaranteeing OU students admission to the Doctor of Pharmacy program if the EAP requirements are satisfied

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Correction to the open electives for the undergraduate Architecture program – College of Engineering**

The Knowlton School of Architecture's (KSA) updated its Architecture undergraduate major, correcting an error on the advising sheet. On the advising sheet, the elective section states that a student must complete 12 hours of 1000-5000 level courses in ARCH or LARCH. The intended requirement, however, was for a student to complete 12 hours of Open Electives (no requirement that the course is ARCH or LARCH).

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Removal of the Computer Science minor option for Integrated Business Engineering students in the Software Innovation Track – College of Engineering**

The Integrated Business and Engineering (IBE) Honors Program in the College of Engineering removed the Computer Science minor option for engineering majors in the IBE-Software Innovation Track, eliminating the choice between a Business or Computer Science minor.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Direct Enrollment Update – College of Engineering**

The College of Engineering updated its direct enrollment process for undergraduate students:

- For several years, direct enrollment has been offered for the programs in Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering
- Starting in Autumn 2025, direct enrollment was made available to the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) and Computer and Information Science (CIS) programs
- Biomedical Engineering remains the only program not participating in direct enrollment

The goal of this effort is to streamline the transition of students from pre-major to major status in several of the College's high-demand programs as the College works towards a formal direct enroll to major process with the 2026-27 admissions cycle.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The Ohio Department of Higher Education requires a report every three years on courses with low enrollments (fewer than 17 students). Smith's office is working on the report with input from all the colleges.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith

Katie Reed