

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

September 2, 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:

Mr. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

Dr. Anika Anthony (Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning)
Dr. Kristy Browning (College of Nursing)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Harriet Fertik (Department of Classics)
Dr. Jim Fuchs (College of Pharmacy)
Dr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Academic Affairs)
Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
Dr. John Marschhausen (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)

Ms. Cory Matyas (College of Engineering)
Dr. Lisa Mostafavifar (College of Pharmacy)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Mr. Derek Peterson (Department of Agriculture Communication Education and Leadership)
Professor Anne Ralph (Moritz College of Law)
Dr. Winston Thompson (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)
Professor Kelsey Winters (Moritz College of Law)

The meeting came to order at 3:30 PM

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR VALARIE WILLIAMS

Williams welcomed the Council to the first meeting of the 2026-27 academic year. She reminded the Council/informed new members that proposers and observers typically attend by Zoom.

Williams shared with the Council that the following individuals will chair subcommittees: Wendy Bowles Subcommittee A, Gary Gao Subcommittee B, and Eugenia Romero Subcommittee C. Smith and Williams co-chair Subcommittee D. Williams also shared that Elliot Bendoly and Andrew Miles have agreed to serve on the Graduate School / Council on Academic Affairs (GS / CAA) Combined Curriculum Committee. Williams thanked everyone for their service.

This Council is one of 21 subcommittees of the University Senate. In addition to its normal curricular activities, the Council will conduct several center reviews and review the first proposed accelerated bachelor's degree.

The Office of Academic Affairs will soon announce dates for Shared Values Town Halls in relation to the upcoming re-affirmation of accreditation site visit by the Higher Learning Commission in March 2027. Attendees can select the time and location that works best for them.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

House Bill 96 requires state institutions of higher education to complete a comprehensive review and update of their general education requirements to align with specific state-mandated focus areas. By December 31, 2026, each Board of Trustees must submit a resolution acknowledging the completion of the initial general education (GE) curricular review. Independent of this mandate, Ohio State was already reviewing the new GE as it is now in its fourth year. The GE Review Committee is looking at course distribution, roles of online courses, learning outcomes, and the GE course approval process among other areas. The GE review will be featured in the self-report that we submit to the Higher Learning Commission for our decennial re-accreditation visit.

House Bill 96 also calls for each state university to create at least one accelerated 90-credit hour degree program aligned to an in-demand career area. The accelerated degree must include a pathway for College Credit Plus students. The new major will need to be approved and in effect by Autumn 2027.

The College Credit Plus (CCP) Office, which reports to Smith, is welcoming a third advisor to its team. This advisor will help with the 800+ students (grades 7-12) who take CCP courses at Ohio State.

The Office of Academic Affairs is conducting an internal search for a new director of the Sustainability Institute. Smith is leading the search.

The University's Annual Assessment Conference is located at The Blackwell on September 25, 2026. Smith's office will send the registration link to the Council. Please consider attending if you are available.

Work continues on workforce development initiatives. John Marschhausen joined the Office of Academic Affairs as Smith's Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Program Pathways. Pathways are part of Ohio State's two pillar approach to workforce development. The other pillar is the development of new academic programming. This pillar is led by Rob Griffiths, Assistant Vice Provost for Workforce Development and Innovation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

- **Update to the Embedded Literacy for the International Studies Program – College of Arts and Sciences**

The College of Arts and Sciences added International Studies 3850, Introduction to Globalization, as an advanced writing Embedded Literacy designated course. This is effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Updates to the Advising Sheet for the Civics, Law, and Leadership Minor – Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society**

The Salmon P. Chase Center updated their major and minor advising sheets for Civics, Law, and Leadership. Changes included a name change of "the Good Life/Civic Life" to "American Civic Life", a policy update to allow up to 3 hours of non-Civics, Law, and Leadership coursework to count toward the minor in alignment with university requirements, program sheets were updated with available courses that align with the major's curriculum categories while removing those courses that remain in development, and finally the advisor contact was updated to the recently hired academic advisor. These changes are effective Spring 2027.

The Council asked if all courses listed on the advising sheet have been approved. Williams responded that the informational item was accepted on good faith, but that she will verify after the meeting.

- **Revision to the PhD in Educational Studies – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Educational Studies in the College of education and Human Ecology made slight revisions to the PhD in Educational Studies, mainly to revise typographical errors for course prefixes,

numbers, and titles. The updated curriculum now reads these for the 12 credit hours for Core 2 Courses: ESPHE 8201 – Social Foundations of Education; ESEPSY 7402 – Educational Psychology: Cognition, Learning, and Instruction; ESEPSY 7401 – Controversies, Myths, and Dilemmas in Education; and ESSPED 8875 – Professional Writing/Publishing in Special Education. These changes are effective Autumn 2026.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Modification to the Medical Science (non-certification) Curriculum – College of Medicine**

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the College of Medicine removed Medical Laboratory Science 5690, Advanced Topics in Medical Laboratory Science from the Medical Laboratory Science Non-Certification (Medical Science) program curriculum. No changes are made to the program's total number of credit hours. This is effective for the cohort which started in Autumn 2025.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Classics Minor – College of Arts and Science**

Guest: Harriet Fertik, Associate Professor, Department of Classics

The Department of Classics proposes to revise the Classics Minor.

The Department is changing the name of its minor from Classical Humanities to Classics. In addition to the name change, the revision will simplify the requirements for students by eliminating the Classics 1101 prerequisite, and by eliminating the two tracks: Greek and Roman. Instead, the new Classics Minor will include a new core course option and will allow courses from Classics, Greek, and Latin to count towards the minor. This streamlining will benefit students on main campus and on the regional campuses of Marion and Newark where fewer variety of courses are offered.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

Finlay Fletcher shared that he was formerly in the Department and Classics and believes that the changes are a long time coming and will help greatly with simplification.

- **Proposal to deactivate the Graduate Minor in Research Methods in Human Resource Development – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science**

Guests: Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Derek Peterson, Academic Program Services Specialist, Department of Agriculture Communication, Education, and Leadership

The Department of Agriculture Communication, Education, and Leadership proposes to deactivate the Graduate Minor in Research Methods in Human Resources Development. This has been reviewed and approved by the GS / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The Department no longer offers the graduate minor curriculum, and—to their knowledge—there are no students currently pursuing the minor.

Smith informed the Council that the College is great at continuously reviewing and updating its curriculum. Osborne added that this is one of many proposals that the Council will see this semester.

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

- **Proposal to establish an online 3a Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Management – College of Pharmacy**

Guests: Jim Fuchs, Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy; Lisa Mostafavifar, Associate Professor-Clinical, College of Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy proposes to establish an online 3a Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Management. This has been reviewed and approved by the GS / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The 14-credit hour certificate is created in response to documented workforce demands for formally trained pharmacy leaders in hospitals, health systems, and specialty pharmacy organizations. The certificate consists of 10 courses over two semesters (14-credit hours total). All courses exist in the Master of Science in Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership (MS-HSPAL) program. The certificate is stackable and could later be applied to the MS-HSPAL. The certificate is attainable in 12 months with no summer classes.

The learning outcomes, assessment practices, implementation timeline, and background and rationale for the proposal are outlined in the proposal. The College of Pharmacy and Ohio State Online conducted a comparable analysis of other programs offering similar certificates and the creation of this certificate will position the College competitively in the marketplace and will align it with peer institutions.

The Council noticed that the College used the term micro credential throughout the proposal. Griffiths explained to the Council that Ohio State's definition of a micro credential is an offering of less than 12-credit hours; hence, the reference to micro credential should be updated to certificate. Mostafavifar

noted that the original name of the certificate is still referred to in the proposal a few times. The certificate title should be updated in addition to the mentions of micro certificates.

Mostafavifar confirmed that the College has established partnerships with Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and the James Cancer Hospital. This certificate is yet another pathway to partner with the hospitals. Mostafavifar added that the College of Pharmacy offers discount programs to current Ohio State healthcare employees.

Griffiths informed the Council that the Graduate School is still developing guidelines on if there is a maximum amount of time allowed between stackable certificates and graduate programs.

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

- **Proposal to establish a new certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution – Moritz College of Law**

Guests: Anne Ralph, Professor-Clinical, Moritz College of Law; Kelsey Winters, Assistant Director for International and Graduate Affairs, Moritz College of Law

The Moritz College of Law proposes to establish a new 3a graduate certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. This has been reviewed and approved by the GS / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The stackable Alternative Dispute Resolution certificate draws on Moritz's national reputation of its Dispute Resolution Law Program. The certificate offers specialized knowledge through courses focused on negotiation, mediation, and contracts/business law, preparing professionals to manage legal challenges effectively in a range of professional roles, including preparing students with high-demand conflict management expertise relevant to their specific industries.

The certificate has five learning goals and requires the completion of 12-credit hours (two required core courses and a selection of two elective courses). The curriculum is described in detail in the proposal.

Data analysis of the marketplace, assessment practices for the program, and eligibility are also described in detail. Ohio State Online will provide marketing and recruitment support as it does already for the three in effect.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Certificate will join three other existing certificates that were created in response to documented market demand for adaptable, professional-focused experience for those in law-adjacent professions. The certificates draw on preexisting concentrations in the Master in the Study of Law (MSL) degree and can be used towards completion of the MSL. The development of the certificates was carefully curated so that if a student chose to complete two of the five stackable certificates, the student could then complete the two MSL foundational courses (6 credits) to fulfill the MSL degree.

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

- **Proposal to establish a new certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law – Moritz College of Law**

Guests: Anne Ralph, Professor-Clinical, Moritz College of Law; Kelsey Winters, Assistant Director for International and Graduate Affairs, Moritz College of Law

The Moritz College of Law proposes to establish a new 3a graduate certificate in Intellectual Property and Technology Law. This has been reviewed and approved by the GS / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The Intellectual Property and Technology Law certificate is based on a preexisting concentration in the MSL program and offers specialized knowledge through courses focused on intellectual property, data privacy and cybersecurity law and regulation, intellectual property law, and information and AI law. These courses prepare professionals to manage legal challenges in business, policy formulation, and compliance roles effectively.

The certificate has five learning goals and requires the completion of 12-credit hours (two required core courses and a selection of two elective courses). The curriculum is described in detail in the proposal.

Data analysis of the marketplace, assessment practices for the program, and eligibility are also described in detail. Ohio State Online will provide marketing and recruitment support as it does already for the three in effect.

As with the Alternative Dispute Resolution certificate, the Intellectual Property and Technology Law certificate is stackable and can be used in completion of the MSL degree.

Ralph noted that the College is very excited about these new offerings.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Science in Nursing's graduate entry program – College of Nursing**

Guest: Kristy Browning, Professor-Clinical, College of Nursing

The College of Nursing proposes to revise the Master of Science in Nursing's Graduate Entry Program. This has been reviewed and approved by the GS / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and Graduate Council.

The College's Graduate Entry (GE) option in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) is an alternative track for those with a baccalaureate in another area.

The revision is focused only on the prelicensure portion of the curriculum and aims to 1) meet American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) quality standard guidelines for nursing education referred to as “Essentials”, 2) address curricular drift and 3) align curriculum with AACN Entry Level Essentials that match current curricula (Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing [BSN], Accelerated BSN [aBSN]). Due to Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN) law changes, the prelicensure GE option was under the previous traditional BSN curriculum and was aligned with previous curriculum under the OBN program code. The GE option was no longer aligned after the BSN curriculum revision implemented in 2023, and the two prelicensure tracks became substantially different. A new program code for only the GE portion was awarded, and a GE curriculum task force was created in 2025 to create a curriculum that would meet the AACN Entry Level Essentials.

Through an extensive analysis process, the College of Nursing developed the following proposed curricular program:

- Update and redistribute curriculum into sequential 2-credit hour professional nursing courses from courses that were previously 1-3 credit hours
- Redistribute the medical surgical curriculum in three courses versus the current two courses
- Proposed courses changed from 6000-level to 5000-level in order to align courses taught within the accelerated BSN program for strategic resource allocation where there is overlapping curriculum
- Revise prerequisite admission standards

The change resulted in the creation of 9 new courses and the revision of 3 existing courses.

The proposal details what courses changed, how they are assessed, how they align with OBN state standards, and a transition plan that allows all students to finish on the plan in which they matriculated. The new program will be implemented in Summer 2028. Sample three -and five- year plans are detailed by practitioner specialty.

Williams thanked the College for the detailed proposal.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith reminded the Council that this is university-level service. Members should review proposals from an institutional, not their own college-level, perspective. Units follow the **Office of Academic Affairs Curriculum and Assessment Handbook** when developing proposals. This Council, through its subcommittees and the full Council, assure that proposals adhere to the guidelines specified there.

Smith shared that the University Senate will soon provide names of student representatives.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith

Katie Reed