

Council on Academic Affairs

March 6, 2024

3-5 PM

Ohio Union

Student-Alumni Council Room (Room 2154)

Minutes

Attendance

Faculty:

- Dr. Carlos Castro (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
- ✓ Dr. Ann Christy (College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Samantha Herrmann (Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology)
- Dr. Wendy Hesford (Department of English)
- Dr. Tara King (College of Nursing)
- ✓ Dr. Nicole Kwiek (College of Pharmacy)
- ✓ Dr. Fabio Leite (Department of Psychology)
- ✓ Dr. Berry Lyons (School of Earth Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Russell Marzette (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
- ✓ Dr. Thomas Nelson (Department of Political Science)
- ✓ Dr. Sue Sutherland (Department of Human Sciences)

Staff:

- ✓ Ms. Margo Coates (College of Dentistry)

Students

- ✓ Ms. Emily Johnson (USG, Sociology)
- ✓ Mr. Charlie Mace (CGS, Physics)
- ✓ Mr. Brett Carroll (IPC, Pharmacy)
- ✓ Ms. Carrie Anne Thomas (CGS, Teaching and Learning)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

- Mr. Aaron Bagent (College of Education and Human Ecology)
- Dr. Susan Cole (Arts and Sciences, SEI Committee)
- Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
- Mr. Cody Grabbe (Undergraduate Admissions)
- Dr. Robert Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Office of Academic Affairs)
- Dr. Robert Griffiths (Ohio State Online)
- Dr. Alan Kalish (Office of Academic Affairs, Vice Provost)
- Ms. Maria Miriti (Graduate School)

Dr. Emma Read (College of Veterinary Medicine)
Ms. Bernadette VanKeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)
The meeting came to order at 3 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR FÁBIO LEITE

Beth Frey was thanked for substituting for Katie Reed at this meeting.

The recent proposal from the College of Nursing to revise its Master of Science track has been withdrawn until the PhD Review is complete, as it will have implications on the MS revision.

University Senate held an open house for committee work where faculty learned about committees. Each of the twenty-one committees was represented.

The Committee on University Technology continues to work on clarifications on curricular approval processes and to address lingering confusion about Ohio State Online.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

The Provost search has begun and there are many ongoing dean searches including the four regional campuses, and the deans for Public Health, Business and Law.

Four program reviews are underway: Geography, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Social Work, and Horticulture and Crop Science.

The Fisher College of Business is going through specialized accreditation this week, and Landscape Architecture did so last week.

There are ongoing meetings for Columbus as a Workforce Hub, and the New Skills Ready Network. The Office of Academic Affairs hired a coordinator to work with Science Olympiad, Breakfast of Champions, and a variety of ongoing K-12 initiatives.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Introduction of the Ohio Prison Education Exchange Project – College of Arts and Sciences**

The College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, and the College Office, support the proposal to offer a prison education program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women for a Bachelor of Arts degree through the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Simultaneously they are submitting appropriate documentation to the Ohio Department of Higher Education and The Higher Learning Commission.

- **Recognition of the Seal of Biliteracy – College of Arts and Sciences**

The College of Arts and Sciences approved the Ohio Seal of Biliteracy to be recognized as a waiver to the world literacy requirement. It acknowledges that students are bilingual, and streamlines process for students who have been acknowledged in High School as bilingual.

- **Change to the Combined BA/MA program in the Department of History – College of Arts and Sciences**

The faculty of the Department of History met, reviewed, and unanimously approved the proposal co-sponsored by the Graduate Studies Committee and the Undergraduate and Teaching Committee to expand its existing Combined BA/MA program, that had been deliberately limited to the subfield of Public History, to all fields.

- **Updates to the College and University Teaching Graduate Certificate program – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The College of Education and Human Ecology requests curriculum changes in the University Teaching Graduate Certificate. None of the requests changes the substantive nature of the Certificate. Instead, they (a) provide a more streamlined path for students in the Department of Engineering Education to pursue the Certificate and (b) offer another course option for all students in the Electives category. These items were approved by the Educational Psychology and Quantitative Research, Evaluation, and Methods Section on April 25, 2023.

ANNUAL STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTION (SEI) PRESENTATION, PROFESSOR SUSAN COLE AND ASSISTANT VICE PROVOST ALAN KALISH

The SEI Committee's standard charge is to monitor student feedback process. University rules require that every student can give feedback on every class every term. Provide an annual report, review literature in the field, and advise council on proposals.

Cole and Kalish provide an overview of the current status of the SEI giving particular attention to response rates, problems with questions, and average scores. In mid-2023, Vice Provosts Malone and Smith gave the SEI Committee the charge to find a new instrument or strategy, and to have a recommendations by the end of spring semester 2024. Within that charge, there were guardrails, urging that it rely on best practices of peers, with a special focus on the University of Nebraska, Purdue University, and the University of Michigan, that the tool be compatible with Blue, and include a project plan and guidance for interpretation of new results.

Committee membership was finalized in Autumn 2023, and it is now meeting every two weeks. It: presented to Faculty Council in January; is being helped by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning that did a deep dive; and it administered a survey to faculty: what behaviors define good

teaching, what information would be useful, do you have questions you use that you like. and what concerns do you have?

They are hearing thoughts about how faculty communicate and respect students and promote active learning. Several felt open ended questions were most useful but could be overwhelming. Continued concern about wanting a design that minimizes bias, that is appropriate for different modalities of classes, that maximizes useful information and minimizes harm. Need to be thinking about building a grade through the semester – less focus on a few requirements to earn the grade - and about Midterm evaluations to provide valuable feedback.

The ideas emerging thus far:

- Refocus instrument on direct impacts to students.
- Rename it to clarify what it does.
- There should be no questions that address overall quality of course or instructor.
- Interested in increasing value of narrative responses. Needs to be 1-2 more focused prompts. Text can be overwhelming to interpret. And those responses open a space for inappropriate responses.
- Proposing about six closed response Likert scale, three areas. Instructor communication and availability; students' sense of engagement; sense of belonging proposing two prompts, one about something that promoted your learning and one that elicits a response about something that can be improved. Would like the ability to add 2-4 additional questions from a pool of preapproved questions. Possibility to add formative questions. Purely formative, never in faculty dossier.

Questions/comments from the Council included:

- What is applicable for needs in areas outside of traditional for credit? If we can write general questions, we would like to do that, and also add extra questions.
- With AI, is this supported because it is efficient and effective or is a guard rail needed? A specific AI built for this is a decision that needs to be made institutionally and through a policy.
- Are there any issues with limitation of physical space? Subcommittees are addressing this.

Cole and Kalish noted that we may need a pilot to move forward, such as the GE Bookends, but were urged to think beyond bookends, because the pedagogy is fixed. In response to specific points, they said that while some believe that use of such measures incentivizes “easy As”, studies show that nationally easy A courses get lower ratings, and although new expectations about such evaluations may come from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, we are not waiting for any such action.

The Subcommittee plans to provide a report to the Council before the end of the academic year.

PROPOSAL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE A – PROFESSORS SUE SUTHERLAND, CARLOS CASTRO, AND WENDY HESFORD; MS. EMILY JOHNSON AND MR. BRETT CARROLL/MS. ASHLEY SWISSHELM

- **Proposal to revise the Undergraduate Minors in Horticulture, Agronomy, Controlled Environment Agriculture, and Turfgrass Science – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

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

The primary component of the proposal is to update a required course in all minors – HCS 2201, Ecology of Managed Plant Systems (4 cr) was replaced with two courses: HCS 2204, Ecology of Managed Plant Systems (3 cr; GEN Sustainability Theme) and 2205, Ecology of Managed Plant Systems – Laboratory (1 cr) as part of the implementation of the General Education program; HCS 2201 will no longer be offered. In addition, an option for including a research experience (HCS 4998) to meet elective credits has been added, and credit hours of professional development (HCS 3448.01) were reduced to 1 cr (from up to 3 cr) to encourage breadth in the courses used to complete the elective credit hours in the minors.

For the Horticulture minor, additional proposed changes include removing a course in the elective options that is not offered (HCS 3522, Sustainable Irrigation and Fertigation Practices) and adding two options for courses that have been reactivated from limbo – HCS 3410, Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Practices and HCS 2401, Sustainable Landscape Design I.

The overall impact is to update the required course list and provide students with additional elective course options. There will not be an impact on currently enrolled students in these minors as the proposed course updates reflect current offerings and provide additional choices for electives.

There were no questions.

Sutherland moved approval of the proposal, and it was approved unanimously.

PROPOSAL FROM SUBCOMMITTEE B – PROFESSORS NICOLE KWIEK, SAMANTHA HERRMANN, AND BERRY LYONS; MS. MARGO COATES; MS. CARRIE ANN THOMAS

- **Proposal to revise the Honors Program in the College of Education and Human Ecology – University Honors**

Guests: Julie Humbel-Courtney, Program Director, University Honors and Scholars Center; Pete Locascio, Executive Director of Undergraduate Education, College of Education and Human Ecology

The goal of proposal is to align college requirements with University requirements, implemented Autumn 2024.

Current requirements call for a 3.4 minimum cumulative GPA, however, the new program would raise that requirement to a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Consistently, over half of all College undergraduate students maintain a 3.4 cumulative GPA or higher. Raising the GPA requirement to 3.5 further distinguishes College Honors students and aligns with the academic performance EHE expects from Honors students.

Further, the 3.5 threshold guarantees that EHE Honors students will also qualify for the GPA requirement of University Latin Honors (3.5 or higher) at graduate on.

Regarding course definitions, it will encompass a wider range of courses and students will have more choice. The Experiential Learning Project (ELP) offers expanded options. Regardless, the ELP must have faculty guidance and receive approval and culminate into a final product. Ninety-nine current honors students will be able to choose.

It has been reviewed by the honors faculty advisory committee.

Questions included: Would a 3000 Political Science class count? Yes, if it is outside of student's primary focus. Will moving to a 3.5 filter some students out? They would have to look at current make up, there are three colleges that have 3.5 expectation. This will allow for students to shift across the university. Does student teaching count? No, student teachers could do a community project within the school where they are student teaching. Has adding ELP component had an adverse impact in any cases? No, more programs are moving towards giving students the choice.

Kwiek moved to approve the proposal and it was approved unanimously.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS FÁBIO LEITE AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Proposal to revise the PhD in Kinesiology – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Brian Turner, Professor, Department of Human Sciences

The changes to the three specializations areas (Health and Exercise Science, Sport Management and Sport Pedagogy) in the Kinesiology PhD program update the programs, create a core of courses that are required by all PhD KN students, and makes the credit hour requirements the same across the three specialization areas. These revisions should not result in any significant changes in the credit hours generated by the KN PhD program. Renaming physical education to sport pedagogy.

It was clarified that the proposal did not have the intent to revise a graduate certificate.

Students can decide to pursue new requirements or maintain current requirements.

It was noted that the term “sport pedagogy” is consistent with peers - it is an international term.

Leite moved to approve the proposal and it was approved with one abstention.

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Science Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis program– College of Medicine**

Guest: Mark Drew, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Department of Microbial Infection and Immunity

This proposal seeks to revise the current Master of Science in Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis Program to offer an optional non-thesis track. The current program, a research-based thesis track is currently the only option for the Program. The new track will afford students that have significant prior research training to earn the MS degree through completion of an expanded curriculum of didactic coursework. This track's required curriculum will benefit students who have sufficient previous independent research training by providing an extended depth of knowledge in the Program's core areas of immunology and microbial pathogenesis. The proposed curriculum for this track can be completed in five full-time, consecutive semesters of coursework, as does the current thesis-track option. From a tracking standpoint will this be in the students' records.

The proposal did not have the intent to revise a graduate certificate.

There were no questions.

Leite moved to approve the proposal and it was approved unanimously.

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Science Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program – College of Medicine**

Guest: Jeffrey Parvin, Professor, Department of Biomedical Informatics

The M.S. degree in Biomedical Sciences was approved in 2012 as an addition to the existing Ph.D. program. This M.S. was approved for post-candidacy students who were unsuccessful in the completion of their doctoral studies. In this update, we propose to add:

1. an option for an M.S. on the basis of a completed candidacy examination (Graduate School Handbook 6.18).
2. make the M.S. available to pre-candidacy students who have completed the coursework and are in good academic standing; and
3. add a non-thesis option that includes a written and oral component.

There is no new curriculum for the M.S. degree, and no students will be admitted into the program through Graduate School Admissions. This program is to enable predoctoral students who fail to advance their independent research a mechanism to exit the program with a terminal M.S. degree. The M.S. degree is not available to students who are making good progress toward their PhD. If students fail the Candidacy Exam, they will be eligible for the non-thesis master's degree if the student chooses not to re-take the Candidacy Exam.

The proposal did not have the intent to revise a graduate certificate.

The proposer accepted the following friendly amendment:

- In 14.3: All committee members must grade the presentation as Satisfactory for the student to be successful in completing this non-thesis option.

There were no questions

Leite moved to approve the proposal and it was approved unanimously.

- **Proposal to revise the 3a and 3b Certificate Programs in Semiconductor Devices – College of Engineering**

Guest: Betty Lise Anderson, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

The proposals included for 3A Grad Certificate for Semiconductor Devices 3B Grad Certificate for Semiconductor Devices: revisions to minor typographical errors; Current enrollment in certificates added page 5, Section II.A. • Inconsistencies in resources related to the labs removed page 6 Section III B

The transition plan is to allow current students to choose between the current and approved (effective Autumn 2024) programs.

Leite moved to approve the proposal and it was approved unanimously.

- **Proposal to revise the 3a and 3b Certificate Programs in Semiconductor Fabrication – College of Engineering**

Guest: Betty Lise Anderson, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

The proposals included for 3A Grad Certificate for Semiconductor Fabrication Technology 3B Grad Certificate for Semiconductor Fabrication Technology: revisions to minor typographical errors; current enrollment in certificates added page 5, Section II.A.; and removal of inconsistencies in resources related to the labs removed page 6 Section III B

Leite moved to approve the proposal and it was approved unanimously.

- **Proposal to revise the 3a and 3b Certificate Programs in Semiconductor Optoelectronics – College of Engineering**

Guest: Betty Lise Anderson, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

The proposals included for 3A Grad Certificate for Semiconductor Optoelectronics 3B Grad Certificate for Semiconductor Optoelectronics; revisions to minor typographical errors; current enrollment in certificates added page 5, Section II.A.; and removal of inconsistencies in resources related to the labs removed page 6 Section III B

Leite moved to approve the proposal and it was approved unanimously.

Leite moved to adjourn at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith

Beth Frey