

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ohio Union
SPHINX Centennial Leadership Suite

September 6, 2023
3:45-5 PM

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:

- ✓ Mr. Harvey Diaz (USG, Economics)
- ✓ Ms. Emily Johnson (USG, Sociology)
- ✓ Ms. Meghan Mitchell (USG, Public Affairs and Sport Industry)
- ✓ Ms. Carrie Anne Thomas (CGS, Teaching and Learning)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

Dr. Shanker Balasubramaniam (Department of Computer Science and Engineering)
Dr. Trevor Brown (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Keely Croxton (Fisher College of Business)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Mr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)

Dr. Rob Greenbaum (Office of Academic Affairs)
Ms. Mary Ellen Jenkins (College of Arts and Sciences)
Mr. Brandon Lester (Office of Legal Affairs)
Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Dr. Maria Miriti (Graduate School)
Dr. Emma Read (College of Veterinary Medicine)
Dr. Tasha Snyder (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3:45 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR FÁBIO LEITE

Leite and Smith hosted an orientation for new Council members from 3-3:45 p.m.

The first Faculty Cabinet of the 2023-24 academic year is September 15, 2023. Leite will report back at the Council's next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

This is the first Council meeting in decades that is outside of Bricker Hall. This year's meetings will be held in various rooms at the Ohio Union.

Walter "Ted" Carter Jr. has been named the 17th President of The Ohio State University. His office will be in University Square South (USS).

Kaya Şahin is joining Ohio State as the next Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs.

There are two new deans: Deanna Kroetz, College of Pharmacy, and Karen Rose, College of Nursing.

The Office of Academic Affairs is conducting searches for the following positions: Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion; Senior Vice Provost for Student Academic Excellence; Dean of the College of Public Health; and Dean of Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark.

The Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) Office—which reports to Smith—recently hired a new Assistant Director, Angie Antronica.

Workforce development programming continues to be a University-wide initiative. It is critical that Ohio State meets the changing needs of the labor force.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Creation of a non-credit, 24-week Online Program, *Artificial Intelligence (AI) Bootcamp* – College of Engineering**

The College of Engineering created a non-credit, 24-week online program, entitled, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Bootcamp. Students will get practical, hands-on learning to empower them to develop the skills and processes needed to enhance their AI job prospects. The program is rigorous, fast-paced, and focused on the practical, technical skills needed to solve data, machine learning, and artificial intelligence problems.

The program includes live online, instructor-lead class sessions, three days per week. Participants must complete the 24-week program to obtain the certificate of completion.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Certificate Overlap with Degree Requirements – School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences will allow 100% course overlap between an academic certificate and the individual degree program as specified for the Health Sciences major, Health Information Management and Systems major, and the MDN, MD, and PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

REQUESTS FOR UNIVERSITY CENTER STATUS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Request for provisional University status for the NSF National eXtreme Ultrafast Science (NeXUS) Facility – Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge**

The Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge requests provisional University status for the National Science Foundation (NSF) National eXtreme Ultrafast Science (NeXUS) Facility. NeXUS is supported by a grant from the NSF.

NeXUS will be a first-of-its-kind ultrafast laser facility in the United States. NeXUS will have an obligation to serve the broader user community by providing access to unique-in-the-national capabilities in ultrafast science regardless of the user's institution or scientific discipline. By NSF mandate, NeXUS is to be a nationally accessible user facility whose primary objective is to increase the global competitiveness of the US research landscape.

University status is a requirement to obtain the grant. A formal proposal will eventually be submitted and reviewed by this Council.

Smith moved approval of the request; it was approved unanimously.

- **Request for provisional University status for the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society – Office of Academic Affairs**

Guests: Trevor Brown, Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs; Brandon Lester, Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs

The Office of Academic Affairs submits requests provisional University status for the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society. The Chase Center is a legislative mandate through House Bill 33.

The purpose of the Chase Center is to offer undergraduate and graduate teaching and conduct research on the historical ideas, traditions, and texts associated with the American constitutional order. House Bill (HB) 33 states that the Chase Center must:

- Educate students through free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;
- Equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mine needed to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social importance;
- Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education;
- Aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university; and,
- Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry.

The Center will be housed in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and will be led by an Executive Director. The Executive Director will be charged with developing a proposal for a permanent center status for the Chase Center.

Smith informed the Council that he, Brown, and Lester have been working closely—and will continue to work closely—on implementation. Provost Gilliam is also involved in these discussions. Provisional status is one of many steps.

The Council asked about the impetus for this Center. Brown responded that the Center was proposed by the authors of Senate Bill (SB) 83, which was opposed by Ohio State and ultimately defeated. He added that the timing of HB 33 is very quick because it is part of the State's budget bill.

The Council expressed concern over the similar language used in SB 83 and HB 33. The University community should be aware of the similarities.

The Council asked if the Chase Center will have a relationship with the Center for Ethics and Human Values. Brown responded that once an Executive Director is hired, he/she will reach out to different areas on campus to establish relationships.

Smith told the Council that it will be kept up to date on the status of the Chase Center.

Smith moved approval of the request; it was approved unanimously.

Smith thanked the Council for its support.

POTENTIAL PHD PROGRAMS DISCUSSION – PROFESSOR BALASUBRAMANIMA SHANKER

Shanker presented the Council with two new potential PhD program offerings at Ohio State. He already presented these ideas to the Office of International Affairs, APAC (Academic Program Advisory Council) and the Graduate School, all of which showed support for the initiatives.

The first initiative is a template for units to use when creating intellectual collaborations between Ohio State and international institutions.

The second initiative is a template for units to use when developing cross-unit PhD programs. With a cross-unit PhD, a doctoral student could earn a PhD in two areas of study (primary and secondary majors).

Both rubrics would be optional for units. There will be no requirement to use them.

The Council did not express any major concerns.

Shanker will create formal proposals that will eventually come to this Council for review.

Leite thanked Shanker for attending the meeting.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE C – PROFESSOR TARA KING

- **Proposal to revise the Sustainable Plant Systems major – 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 Sciences proposes to revise the Sustainable Plant Systems major.

The Department would like to add a (sixth) specialization in Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) to the Sustainable Plant Systems major. CEA (greenhouse) is emerging as an aggregation of technologies that can address intensified food production necessary to meet global food demands as the world population increases.

Students have expressed interest in this specialty, and there is national industry demand. The specialization will also benefit from the construction of the new greenhouse at Waterman Farm as well as a new faculty hire in the Department.

In addition to the new specialization, the Department updated the course offerings for its existing specializations.

The Council asked if any of the courses are offered online. Lindsey replied in the affirmative.

The Council asked if there is an assessment plan. Osborne responded that there is an assessment plan for the Sustainable Plant Systems major. There is not an assessment plan for the individual specializations. Smith added that the College is an active participant in the University's assessment efforts.

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

- **Proposal to discontinue the One-of-a-Kind PhD Program – Graduate School**

Guest: Maria Miriti, Associate Dean, Graduate School

The Graduate School proposes to discontinue its One-of-a-Kind PhD program.

The One-of-a-Kind PhD program was originally designed to accommodate doctoral students whose research interests were not met by a formal graduate program. Students enrolled in the program worked with the Graduate School leadership and faculty members from across the University to develop a unique research topic.

This program served to fill a gap when there were few, if any, opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary research on campus. The establishment of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs, however, has greatly decreased the interest in and need of the One-of-a-Kind PhD program. The program has been dormant for many years and does not currently have any enrolled students.

While the Graduate School does not anticipate any interested in the program, the Graduate School would work with any future students interested in the program to identify interdisciplinary research opportunities.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

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

- **Proposal to revise the Entomology major – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Ellen Klinger, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Department of Entomology; Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Department of Entomology proposes to revise the Entomology major.

Entomology would like to update the major's electives to reflect changes in course offerings in the Department. The Department has removed a course that is no longer offered (ENTMLGY 5001) from the elective list and added courses to the electives list. This update will provide students with options in their interest areas and that are consistently offered.

There is no change to total amount of credit hours.

Leite noted that there is a small typo in the advising sheet that needs to be corrected.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Entomology minor – College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences**

Guests: Ellen Klinger, Assistant Professor-Clinical, Department of Entomology; Jeanne Osborne, Assistant Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Department of Entomology proposes to revise the Entomology minor.

Entomology would like to update the major's electives to reflect changes in course offerings in the Department. The Department has removed a course that is no longer offered (ENTMLGY 5797) from the elective list and added courses to the electives list. This update will provide students with options in their interest areas and that are consistently offered.

Osborne note that the Department is added more courses to the minor's elective list because the minor has not been updated in some time (as opposed to the major, which was updated for the University's GE revision).

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Comparative Studies BA – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Spencer Dew, Associate Professor-Clinical, Department of Comparative Studies

The Department of Comparative Studies proposes to revise the Comparative Studies major leading to the Bachelor of Arts.

The existing major in Comparative Studies includes five concentrations: Comparative Cultural Studies; Comparative Ethnic and American Studies; Comparative Literature; Folklore; and Science and Technology Studies. The Department would like to remove the formal concentrations because it cannot consistently offer the courses that students need to complete the concentrations due to a reduction in tenure-track faculty over the past decade. The decrease in tenure-track faculty has created a situation where the Department no longer has the faculty expertise required to staff the courses. Removal of the concentrations will alleviate student frustration and create greater transparency about the available curriculum.

Under the new curriculum, students—in consultation with their advisor—will select a Major Focus. The Major Focus consists of five courses. At least four of the courses must be Comparative Studies or Religious Studies courses and no more than two of them may be at the 2000-level. The courses should be centered on a particular set of discourse, objects, cultural practices, or problems. In addition to the Major Focus, students will choose four elective courses that will complement the Major Focus or add new knowledge bases, approaches, or methodologies.

Current students can continue with the specializations or move to the new curriculum.

Dew emphasized that this change will positively impact students as most students found completely the current curriculum difficult/frustrating.

The Council ask if the Major Focus will show on a student’s transcript. Duffy replied that in the negative and added that specializations and concentrations do not appear on transcripts.

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

Smith informed the Council that this change will go into effect immediately as the review of this proposal was delayed due to an administrative error.

- **Proposal to revise the Associate of Arts degree – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Mary Ellen Jenkins, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Andrew Martin, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

The College of Arts and Sciences proposes to revise the Associate of Arts degree. The Associate of Arts degree is only awarded on the regional campuses.

The revisions to the Associate of Arts degree are motivated by the University's GE revision. The revisions also attempt to align with the recently revised Ohio Transfer Module. Revisions include the following: requiring courses in specific GE categories (rather than general categories such as "Arts and Humanities"); addition of a course in the Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Diversity category; and flexibility to include Theme courses and embedded literacies in writing and data analysis. The world language is still a requirement even though it is no longer part of the GE.

Leite informed the Council that the Math 1135/36 series was accidentally omitted from the advising sheet. Jenkins added that the series was not listed on previous advising sheets because the classes had not been created yet. Leite asked the Council for a friendly amendment to add the courses to the advising sheet.

Leite moved approval of the recommendation with the friendly amendment; it was approved unanimously.

These changes will go into effect in Spring 2024.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed