

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Ohio Union
Sphinx Centennial Leadership Suite

November 15, 2023
3-5 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. Fábio 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)
- Ms. Carrie Anne Thomas (CGS, Teaching and Learning)
- ✓ Ms. Kaitlyn Sweeney (IPC, Law)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

Mr. Adam Andrews (Center for Life Sciences Education)
Ms. Lisa Clouser (Graduate School)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Harald Fisk (Center for Life Sciences Education)

Mr. Cody Grabbe (Office of Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Lang Li (Department of Biomedical Informatics)
Dr. Helen Malone (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Tatiana Oberyshyn (College of Medicine)
Ms. Jeanne Osborne (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences)
Dr. Emma Read (College of Veterinary Medicine)
Mr. Peter Spreitzer (University Exploration)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3:04 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Leite is unable to attend today's meeting due to a professional engagement. However, he provides these comments:

The Senate Committee on Academic Technology is considering whether to establish two subcommittees, one on online learning. If approved, to the extent that it may want to discuss curricular approval (procedures already in place on this Council) Leite is expecting to receive a request for a representative. He may accept an invitation or ask for a volunteer to be our representative: informational item for now.

The Senate Faculty Cabinet suggested the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) curricular handbook states that the process of revisions includes this Council (it has) such that it is on record that we expect an opportunity for faculty involvement and input (as it was done in 2021-22). Leite is registering the suggestion here.

Smith thanked all who participated in the 2023 University Assessment Conference. 170 people registered. The morning plenary session focused on how the Big Ten Pharmacy Network collaborates on education assessment. The afternoon plenary session focused on the role of assessment in academic units. Next year's conference will be on September 20, 2024.

Elena Irwin, Faculty Director of the Sustainability Institute, is leading discussions on next steps with sustainability education.

The following units recently underwent academic program reviews: Biomedical Engineering and Pathology.

Workforce development continues to be an important initiative at Ohio State, supported by all colleges on campus. Smith and others are looking at new levels of credentials at Ohio State. The University continues to partner with Columbus City Schools and Columbus State Community College on workforce development initiatives. Columbus has been designated as a Workforce Hub by President Biden. Ohio State needs to be involved in determining what role the 4-year sector will play.

Smith noted that workforce development is not limited to the hard sciences. Please contact Smith if your area is involved in workforce development efforts.

This Council should soon see proposals to establish an undergraduate minor in Entrepreneurship and an interdisciplinary major in Game Studies.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education continues to put a lot of focus on 2+2 partnerships. Smith is leading discussions on creating a new IT pathway between Columbus State Community College and Ohio State. OSU Lima is developing a 2+2 Social Work pathway with Rhodes State Community College. Ohio State Lima and Bluffton University are linking the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (BSET). Students will spend their first two years at Bluffton University and their last two years at Ohio State. Participants will earn degrees from both institutions. This is the first time that the University is partnering with a private institution for such an initiative.

Plans are underway for the 2024 STEAMM Rising Institute. The following units will participate: BioEYES Institute, Orton Museum, ATI, (College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences), Geography, Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, Veterinary Medicine, and Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Karla Zadnik, Dean of the College of Optometry and Interim Dean on the College of Public Health, will serve as Interim Executive Vice President and Provost starting on January 1, 2024. Jeff Walline, Associate Dean in the College of Optometry, will serve as Interim Dean of the College of Optometry while Zadnik serves as Interim Provost.

The college curricular deans discussed the issue of S/U courses and certificates at the monthly APAC (Academic Program Advisory Council) meeting on November 14, 2023. APAC was supportive of creating a maximum allowance of S/U courses with certificates. The group also discussed the idea of standardizing course syllabi.

Due to the transition in leadership, the annual Council dinner with the Provost is cancelled.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION: PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CLINICAL FACULTY CAP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Guests: Lang Li, Chair, Department of Biomedical Informatics; Helen Malone, Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Faculty Resources, Office of Academic Affairs; Tatiana Oberyszyn, Associate Dean, College of Medicine

The Department of Biomedical Informatics (DBMI) proposes to increase its clinical faculty cap.

The Council originally reviewed this proposal at its meeting on October 18, 2023. The Council decided to table the proposal so that the Department could clarify questions on the proposal's impact on the College of Medicine's clinical cap and the role of clinical faculty vs. tenured-track faculty.

After that meeting, Smith met with Helen Malone, Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Faculty Resources, to discuss the University's policies on clinical faculty caps. Malone confirmed that there is no clinical faculty cap for the clinical departments within the College of Medicine (COM). COM's academic departments have a 40% clinical cap. There is no overall cap at the College-level.

Leite and Smith then met with DBMI to clarify the Council's questions on the role of clinical faculty vs. tenured-track faculty. As a result of this meeting, DBMI submitted an addendum to the proposal to answer the Council's questions. The addendum clarified the role of clinical faculty on the following departmental committees:

- Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Committee: only eligible faculty will vote on faculty appointments and promotions.
- Faculty Search Committee: All faculty members can vote for clinical track faculty candidates. Only eligible faculty can vote for tenured/tenure track faculty candidates. The number of clinical faculty on this committee cannot exceed 49%.
- Education Committee: All members of the committee have voting rights. The number of clinical faculty on this committee cannot exceed 49%.

These roles are detailed in the Department's updated Pattern of Administration (POA).

The Council asked the proposers to further discuss the Department's decision to move towards more clinical faculty than tenure-track faculty. Li responded that the Department is following the College's model of clinical faculty focusing on teaching and tenure-track faculty focusing on research. Oberszyn added that the College's expectation from faculty is that 50% of their costs (salary, lab expenses, etc.) will come from grants. This focus on grants does not allow enough time for tenure-track faculty to teach large courses. The need for instructors, though, still exists. Li added that this model makes it financially difficult to hire tenure-track faculty.

The Council asked how the Department anticipates using clinical faculty. Li responded that clinical faculty will either focus on education or focus on assisting tenure-track faculty with grants.

The Council thanked the proposers for the addendum as it clarified several questions, and it will be helpful when the proposal goes to the Faculty Council.

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

Smith informed the Council that the proposal will next go to the University Senate and the Board of Trustees. Before being discussed at the Senate, the proposal will need to be reviewed by Faculty Council and the Senate Steering Committee.

Smith noted that all 15 colleges have clinical faculty appointments. Any changes in percentages will be reviewed by this Council. It has recently reviewed and approved revisions from Optometry, Dentistry, and Nursing.

While the vote remains unchanged, the Council expressed concerns that clinical faculty doing research could negatively impact tenure-track faculty, and that this proposal seems financially motivated. Smith responded that the University must rely on the Colleges for their expertise.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

- **Use of Sociology 1102 as major prerequisite and in DEI certificate – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of Sociology has decided to allow Sociology 1102 as a major prerequisite for the following programs: Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies and Sociology (BA and BS). Sociology 1102 will also be an option to fulfill an elective requirement in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the Master of Science (MS) in Consumer Sciences, Fashion and Retail Studies and Hospitality Management Specializations – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Human Sciences revised the following specializations in the MS in Consumer Sciences: Fashion and Retail Studies and Hospitality Management. The proposed changes will remove the umbrella curriculum shared by these two specializations. These changes will provide a more tailored academic experience within the two specializations. Changes include adjustments to the major and elective requirements.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

- **Revision to the EdD in Educational Studies, Higher Education and Student Affairs Specialization – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Educational Studies revised the EdD in Educational Studies, Higher Education and Student Affairs Specialization. ESHESA 7290 was added as an option under Supporting Courses. The addition will provide another option for students.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE C – PROFESSORS TARA KING, ANN CHRISTY, RUSSELL MARZETTE, AND TOM NELSON; MR. CHARLIE MACE

- **Proposal to create an Integrated General Biology Specialization – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Center for Life Sciences proposes to create an Integrated General Biology Specialization for the Biology major programs (BA and BS).

Currently, the Biology major has three specializations: Pre-Health Professions (PHP), Life Sciences Education, and Forensic Biology. The three existing specializations are tailored toward particular career paths. The new Integrated General Biology Specialization will provide a broad education in Biology and offer a pathway for students who do not intend to pursue careers in the health, government, and teaching fields.

Approximately 80% of Biology majors initially choose the PHP specialization with the intent to attend health-related professional school. Once major coursework begins, however, many students decide against pursuing this career path as the academic rigor—particularly Organic Chemistry—is extremely challenging. Only a small percentage of Biology majors will actually apply and be admitted to health-related professional schools.

Students who decide to change their career path often want to stop pursuing the PHP specialization. Since there is not currently a clear or desirable alternative to the PHP, students will frequently change majors. The Integrated General Biology (IGB) Specialization will give students the opportunity to continue being a Biology major with a more general pathway.

The IGB specialization will share the same GE, Supporting Course, and Core Course structure as the other three specializations (differentiated for the BA and BS plans). The IGB specialization portion requires a total of 8 courses (6 required and 2 electives). There is no change to overall credit hours.

An assessment plan was included.

The Center for Life Sciences Education would like this new specialization to be available starting in Autumn 2024.

Fisk informed the Council that the Center hopes this new specialization will help with major retention.

The Council asked if the Center plans to track the post-graduation plans of IGP students. Fisk replied in the affirmative.

Adams told the Council that the Center does not anticipate an increase in workload for academic advisors.

The Council asked if there is a point of no return for students who want to switch their specialization within the major. Fisk replied that the Center does not anticipate an issue as there is a lot of overlap between the specializations. He added that students do not have to switch their specialization if they decide against going to medical school. Students can continue to be in the PHP specialization, but many students have expressed a desire to switch into a general biology option.

The Council asked when students typically drop the PHP specialization. Fisk replied that 50% of PHP students drop the specialization in the first two years.

Spreitzer asked if there are career opportunities for students who pursue the IGP. Fisk replied that opportunities are very similar. The specialization just brings a different focus to the major.

Fisk informed the Council that the Center is in discussion with industry partners about creating a biotechnology major. The Center will likely start with a biotechnology certificate. The courses developed for this certificate could act as electives in the Biology major.

Adams noted that most Honors Biology students have a second major and/or minors.

Smith remarked that the Biology major is the second largest major on campus. Fisk replied that there are 2,600 majors on the Columbus campus, and 80% of majors are pre-med.

Smith added that the Biology major has always been devoted to assessment.

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

The Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed