

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

4140 University Square South

September 4, 2024

3:45-5 PM

MINUTES

Attendance

Faculty:

- ✓ Dr. Ann Allen (Department of Educational Studies)
- ✓ 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. Neal Hooker (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
- ✓ Mr. Mike Hogan (OSU Extension)
- ✓ Dr. Nicole Kwiek (College of Pharmacy)
- ✓ Dr. Russell Marzette (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
- ✓ Dr. Thomas Nelson (Department of Political Science)
- ✓ Dr. Sue Sutherland (Department of Human Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Valerie Lee (Department of Dance)

Staff:

- ✓ Ms. Margo Coates (College of Dentistry)

Students:

- ✓ Ms. Mykenna Roy (USG, Biology)
- ✓ Mr. Charlie Mace (CGS, Physics)
- ✓ Mr. Andrew Miles (CGS, Plant Pathology)
- ✓ Mr. Nathan Snizik (USG, International Studies)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

Dr. Anika Anthony (Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning)
Dr. Rebecca Andridge (College of Public Health)
Ms. Lisa Duffy (Office of the University Registrar)
Mr. Cody Grabbe (Undergraduate Admissions)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Robert Griffiths (Ohio State Online)

Mr. Ryan Hunt (Office of the University Registrar)
Dr. Rachel Kajfez (Department of Engineering Education)
Ms. Lisa Kowalsky (Graduate School)
Dr. Sanjay Krishna (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering)
Dr. Andrew Martin (College of Arts and Sciences)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)
Dr. Balasubramaniam Shanker (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering)
Dr. Brian Turner (Department of Human Sciences)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

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

COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith welcomed everyone to the first Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) meeting of the 2024-24 academic year. Sue Sutherland, CAA Chair, is unable to attend due to international travel. He noted that an orientation for new members had just preceded this meeting.

The University is still searching for a new Executive Vice President and Provost. Until then, Karla Zadnik will continue to serve as the Interim Provost. Zadnik is also serving as the Interim Dean of the College of Public Health.

The Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) appointed three new regional deans in the summer: Jason Opal, OSU Mansfield; Matthew Smith, OSU Newark; and Margaret “Meggie” Young, OSU Lima. The search continues for a new dean of OSU Marion.

The search also continues for a new dean of the Fisher College of Business. Trevor Brown, Dean of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, is serving as the Interim Dean.

The University appointed Lee Strang as the Executive Director of the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society. Some may recall that the Chase Center was created out of legislation from the State of Ohio. The Chase Center will be a University-level center that offers academic programming and is also a Tenure-Initiating Unit (TIU). Currently, the Center only has provisional status. Strang is working on the proposal to officially establish this as a University-level center. The goal is to have this proposal reviewed by this Council in the Autumn.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education is now requiring new program proposals to include information on workforce development data.

Michele Brown, Director of Ohio State’s College Credit Plus Program, is retiring at the end of September 2024. The College Credit Plus Program, known as the Academy at Ohio State, reports to Smith. A search is underway for her replacement.

The Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) may go under a revision. Any revision to the SEI will need to be reviewed and approved by this Council.

Smith told the Council that he will often refer to a group known as APAC. APAC is the Academic Program Advisory Council, which consists of the college curricular deans and other University-level curricular contacts. APAC meets monthly and often discusses issues prior to them coming to this Council.

Smith reminded the Council that the 2024-25 meetings will be held in University Square South.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM – PROFESSOR ROB GREENBAUM

- **Alignment of the Department of History’s BA/MA Combined Degree Program with ODHE Requirements – College of Arts and Sciences**

The Department of History made changes to its Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts (BA/MS) combined degree program. The changes will align the program with the Ohio Department of Higher Education’s credit hour overlap limit for combined degrees.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

STACKABLE CERTIFICATES AND MICRO CREDENTIALS – PROFESSOR ROB GREENBAUM AND DR. ROB GRIFFITHS

In 2022, Griffiths and Anika Anthony, Director of the Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning, co-convened a subcommittee to look at implementation issues surrounding certificates and micro credentials. The subcommittee’s charge was to clarify and define the concepts of stackable certificates and micro credentials; help work with academic units as they develop these programs; and propose and help implement an approval and assessment process for CAA.

Griffiths provided the Council with some background context on stackable certificates and micro credentials as well as the changing societal dynamics in Ohio. He gave an overview of the subcommittee’s work, including the following: framing alternative credentials, updated the academic certificate document, defining alternative credentials, and benefits of alternative credentials.

The subcommittee would like to ask for an endorsement of the following:

- Endorsement to support prototyping of stackable certificates and alternative credentials, specifically micro credentials
- Openness to continuous improvement to expand capacity: scalability, aligned to mission and quality standards

After an endorsement, the subcommittee will start the piloting and planning process.

The Council had no objectives to the endorsement request.

Griffiths thanked the Council and asked if there were any questions.

The Council asked about the pipeline for current students to receive recognition in the form of a certificate and/or micro credentials. Griffiths responded that he hopes this Council can advise on how best to earn recognition (application vs. automatic). Students pursuing a non-credit certificate will go through Extended Education.

The Council commented that a decision will need to be made on whether students can apply transfer credits to certificates and micro credentials.

CALCULUS REQUIREMENT FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Currently, Ohio State requires the completion of Calculus to earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) does not dictate what mathematics is required to obtain a BS. Only other peer institution in the Big Ten Academic Alliance appears to require Calculus to earn a BS degree.

The College of Arts and Sciences (ASC) is looking to remove the Calculus requirement in select BS programs. APAC is supportive of this plan. This Council will ultimately review any proposal to remove Calculus—or any other requirements—from the BS program.

Smith commented that this would be a major change for the University.

CERTIFICATES AND S/U CREDITS – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

During the 2023-24 academic year, it was brought to this Council's attention that the University needs to stipulate how many S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) courses are allowed to count towards the completion of a certificate.

Smith is currently discussing this with APAC. There seems to be support of allowing up to 3-hours of S/U credit to count towards a certificate, which would mirror the guidelines for minors.

APAC will continue to discuss this topic as well as if an assessment plan is needed for certificates.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Science (MS) In Kinesiology – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Brian Turner, Professor, Department of Human Sciences

The Department of Human Sciences proposes to revise the Master of Science (MS) in Kinesiology program. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate School.

The Department is revising all three specialization areas (Health and Exercise Science, Physical Education, and Sport Management) in the MS in Kinesiology degree program. The changes include the following: aligning curriculum across all three specializations with core courses; change the name of the specialization in Physical Education to Sport Pedagogy; make credit hour requirements consistent; and update the curriculum to industry standards.

Current students can pursue the legacy or new curriculum.

Smith noted that the program has not been revised since semester conversion. He applauded the Department for reviewing the curriculum.

Turner commented that these changes will align the MS in Kinesiology with other programs in the Department.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to establish a Dual PhD Degree with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay – College of Engineering**

Guests: Sanjay Krishna, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering;
Balasubramaniam Shanker, Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering proposes to establish a Dual PhD degree with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate School.

The Dual PhD degree will deepen the research and academic relationship as part of the growing partnership between Ohio State and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). The goals of the dual degree program are as follows:

- Provide a framework for exceptional graduate students from IIT Bombay and Ohio State to seek a global educational and professional experience by enrolling as a graduate student at each other's institutions

- Produce skilled and diverse graduate students from both institutions by recruiting and nurturing excellent domestic as well as international students to the graduate programs who embody an awareness and engagement to influence the world
- Mutually benefit from the academic excellence, advanced technology, and innovation of each institution.

Students in this program will be admitted into both home and host institutions. The home institution is the institution where the student is originally enrolled. Admission into the home institution will allow admission into the host institution. The Department expects fewer than 20 students to enroll in the dual degree program.

In general, the program will take 5 years. Students will be financially supported by their home institution. Students are expected to spend at least one year at the host institution.

Krishna noted that Ohio State and IIT Bombay already have a long-standing relationship through the Frontier Research Center.

Krishna informed the Council that he expects the dual degree program will first target students studying microtronics and Artificial Intelligence.

An MOU will be created between the two institutions.

The Council asked if students will still receive financial support if the dual degree program is ever terminated. Shanker replied in the affirmative as funding is attached to the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will have an existing relationship with the host institution. In addition, the program will have a Guidance Committee that can help with such issues.

Smith informed the Council that the College of Engineering and the Office of Academic Affairs are aware and supportive of this program.

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

The next step will be for the MOU between Ohio State and IIT Bombay to be finalized.

- **Proposal to establish a Graduate Minor in Engineering Education – College of Engineering**

Guest: Rachel Kajfez, Associate Professor, Department of Engineering Education

The Department of Engineering Education proposes to establish a Graduate Minor in Engineering Education. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate School.

The Graduate Minor in Engineering Education will allow students to gain an understanding of critical issues facing engineering education and will be able to translate that to their educational contexts. Students will also come away with knowledge of course and curricular design along with best practices in assessment that will enhance their ability to work in educational context during graduate school or in their future careers. Finally, students will have an opportunity to refine their interests by taking elective courses which can focus on research design, technical writing, teaching practices, and more.

The minor consists of 4-credit hours of required coursework and 6-credit hours of elective coursework.

The Council asked if students would have the opportunity to take electives from other departments. Kajfez responded that she suspects most students will want to focus on Engineering Education courses as they are traditionally looking for discipline-specific courses.

Kajfez informed the Council that there is already student interest in this minor. Several students are waiting for the minor to be officially approved so that they can enroll.

The Council expressed surprise that all the other peer institutions offer a certificate rather than a minor.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Public Health with a specialization in Biostatistics – College of Public Health**

Guest: Rebecca Andridge, Professor, College of Public Health

The College of Public Health proposes to revise the Master of Public Health with a specialization in Biostatistics. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate School.

Changes include the following:

- Defining the curriculum plan more clearly to identify all online courses and delivery mode of each course.
- Moving 17-credit hours of elective courses to increase the required specialization courses.
- Increasing required specialization courses from 8-credit hours to 23-credit hours.
- Require a 2-credit hour statistical computing course.

There are no changes to the total overall credit hours, current learning goals, and/or the assessment plan.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

- **Proposal to revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Biostatistics Specialization – College of Public Health**

The College of Public Health proposes to revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Biostatistics Specialization. This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate School / CAA Combined Curriculum Committee and the Graduate School.

Changes include the following:

- Reducing the number of total credit hours required from 45 to 42.
- Increasing the number of required specialization credit hours from 18 to 19.
- Reducing the number of elective credit hours from 12 to 8.

STAT 6450 is being replaced by PUBHBIO 7220 and STAT 6450. Concurrence from the Department of Statistics was received.

The Council did not have any questions or concerns.

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

Andridge commented to the Council that offering online programs has actually increased the enrollment in traditional programs. Students discover the traditional programs when looking for online programming.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed