

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

March 4, 2020

3-5 PM

MINUTES

Attendance

Faculty:

- ✓ Dr. Rebecca Andridge (Public Health)
- ✓ Dr. Anika Anthony (Educational Studies)
- ✓ Dr. Eric Bielefeld (Speech and Hearing Sciences), Co-Chair
- ✓ Dr. Kevin Evans (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Sara Fowler (College of Dentistry)
- ✓ Dr. Jennifer Higginbotham, Co-Chair (English)
 - Dr. Roberto Myers (Materials Science and Engineering)
 - Dr. Melvin Pascall (Food Science and Technology)
- ✓ Dr. Maria Pruchnicki (College of Pharmacy)
- ✓ Dr. Paul Rose (College of Law)
- ✓ Dr. Karl Whittington (Department of History of Art)

Staff:

- ✓ Mr. Peter Spreitzer (University Exploration)

Students:

- ✓ Mr. Nat Crowley (USG, Finance)
- ✓ Mr. Ryan Slechta (CGS, Computer Science and Engineering)
- ✓ Mr. Blake Szkoda (CGS, Chemistry and Biochemistry)
- ✓ Mr. Sridhar Uppalapati (USG, Engineering Physics)

Administrator:

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

Guests:

- Ms. Raechel Adamczyk (College of Pharmacy)
- Mr. Todd Bitters (College of Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Paulette Curtis (College of Education and Human Ecology)
- Ms. Cindy Davis (Office of the University Registrar)
- Ms. Lisa Delaney (Office of the University Registrar)

Dr. Kate Hallihan (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Ms. Jill Hampshire (Office of Enrollment Services)
Dr. David Horn (College of Arts and Sciences)
Dr. Alan Kalish (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Andrew Martin (Office of Academic Affairs)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)
Dr. Haijun Su (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Dr. Winston Thompson (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

The meeting came to order at 3:02 p.m.

STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – DR. ALAN KALISH

Kalish gave an update on behalf of the Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) Subcommittee.

Kalish noted that student feedback on instruction is the most published higher education research topic. Within the past 18 months, there have been many publications related to it.

Kalish provided the membership of the subcommittee, the subcommittee's charge, and historical response rates. He also noted that the transition from PeopleSoft to eXplorance Blue has been seamless from the end-user perspective. eXplorance Blue's integration with Carmen Canvas has boosted student response rates and its reports feature has decreased the workload for the Registrar's Office.

The subcommittee is focusing much of its work on the assessment of the SEI tool. The last full, formal assessment was in 1998. Recent assessment work has raised the issue that what we are asking is not what the students are answering. The subcommittee is conducting an OSU study/pilot in SP20 to investigate implicit bias in the SEI. The study is based off a pilot conducted by the University of Iowa. In addition to the OSU study, the subcommittee continues to have discussions with Vice Provost Helen Malone on teaching evaluation issues across the University.

The Council asked how the University can increase participation rates. Kalish responded that this has been the subcommittee's main concern since the transition to online SEIs. He also noted that the response rate differs among colleges. Cohort programs tend to have better response rates. Pruchnicki shared that the College of Pharmacy has great response rates. Pharmacy incentivizes students with bonus points for completing SEIs. Rose shared that the College of Law also has good completion rates. Law tells its students that SEIs matter to faculty and administration. Rose noted that the College of Law still does paper evaluations.

The Council asked who will participate in the OSU study. Kalish responded that the undergraduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences will participate. The study will involve almost 6,000 students.

Kalish informed the Council that classes with five or fewer students will no longer get automatic SEIs because of confidentiality issues.

Kalish confirmed that the Subcommittee is looking into using text analytics for written comments.

Higginbotham thanked Kalish for the presentation.

COMMENTS FROM THE CO-CHAIR – PROFESSOR JENNIFER HIGGINBOTHAM

Higginbotham will present the College of Veterinary Medicine's proposal to increase the clinical faculty cap for discussion at the Faculty Council meeting on March 5, 2020.

COMMENTS FROM THE CO-CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH

Smith apologized for missing the meeting on February 19, 2020. That Council meeting conflicted with the College of Public Health's annual State of the College Address.

Smith is serving on the search committee for the new Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) in the College of Medicine. The AVC position will focus on interprofessional education. Smith will also meet with the candidates for the University Registrar position.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education is hosting meetings to discuss transfer processes with private institutions and the general education requirements for the Ohio Transfer Module.

Smith is involved with the strategic planning processes for the Office of International Affairs and the Office of University Communications; specifically, brand and marketing for the latter.

The 2020 University Assessment Conference is scheduled for November 6, 2020 at the Ohio Union. Kalish and Martin are working on the conference agenda.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – W. RANDY SMITH

The College of Engineering made minor changes to core major courses in the BS Mechanical Engineering and BS Engineering Technology programs. The changes resulted in no net changes to total credit hours.

This Council approved the creation of a Professional Sciences Master's degree in Translational Data Analytics at its meeting on June 13, 2019. The Ohio Department of Higher Education does not use the Professional Science Master's degree title, which means that we will need to change the program's degree title. Smith will ask University Senate leadership if this title change needs to go through the approval process again or if it can be shared as an informational item. He will report back.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS JENNIFER HIGGINBOTHAM AND W. RANDY SMITH

- **Proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate in Educational Ethics – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Winston Thompson, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies

The Department of Educational Studies proposes to establish a Graduate Certificate in Educational Ethics. This proposal has been reviewed by the Combined Graduate School/Council (GS/CAA) Curriculum Committee.

Higginbotham noted that the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) flagged a concern after the Combined GS/CAA Curriculum Committee reviewed the proposal. OUR was concerned that the original proposal requested two certificate categories: 3a and 3b. It is difficult to award both types of certificates because they are awarded by different bodies (College vs. University). After a discussion with OUR, the department decided to offer the certificate as a 3b.

The certificate will enable graduate students to engage in focused study of the historical context, theories, values, and aims of ethical conduct within educational projects. Students will be equipped with the understandings necessary to carefully evaluate and/or endorse existing or novel educational efforts.

The certificate consists of three required core courses (nine total credit hours) and a pre-approved elective (at least three credit hours) for a total of 12 credit hours. Higginbotham noted that these courses already exist. The certificate will allow students to have a pathway to earn credentials.

An assessment plan was included.

Thompson noted that this certificate is the first program of its kind in North America, though Harvard University is soon launching an educational ethics program. Course offerings will likely expand over the years.

Andridge noted that this seems like an obvious online program opportunity.

Thompson informed the Council that there are students who are already interested in the program. The Council noted that the move to 3b will limit the certificate's audience. 3b certificates are for students who are enrolled at Ohio State. 3a would have opened the certificate to people outside the University. Higginbotham remarked that this was taken into consideration during the discussions between the department and OUR. The department should be aware of the differences.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward with one abstention.

- **Proposal to revise the Capital Program – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Todd Bitters, Manager, College of Arts and Sciences Advising Office

The College of Arts and Sciences proposes to revise its Capital Program.

The Capital Program is a partnership between the College of Arts and Sciences (ASC) and the Fisher College of Business (FCOB). It is an opportunity for ASC students to take upper-level business courses along with Fisher students. The program offers students a rich curricular option that combines challenging coursework with internship experience.

Proposed changes are to replace eliminated courses with new offerings and to eliminate two of the five tracks - the Real Estate and International Business tracks. There are currently no students in the Real Estate track and only three students in the International Business track. The students in the International Business track will be allowed to complete their programs. After the tracks are eliminated, interested students will be advised to consider the Real Estate and International Business minors offered by Fisher.

The Council asked how many students are in the Capital Program. Bitters responded that there are 18-20 students in the program. Marketing is the most popular track.

The Council asked if the program has ever been assessed. Bitters replied that, to his knowledge, it had not.

The Council asked if Capital Program students have enough support to find internships. Bitters responded that students have considerable support.

Spreitzer remarked that University Exploration recommends this program to students who are not admitted to FCOB. He added that the program goes along with the University and State's workforce development initiatives.

The Council encouraged better advertisement of the Capital Program. Many members had never heard about it. The Council also suggested that the Capital Program should connect with the STEP Program.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

- **Proposal to establish an Undergraduate Minor in Robotics and Autonomous Systems – College of Engineering**

Guest: Haijun Su, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering proposes to establish an undergraduate minor in Robotics and Autonomous Systems.

The Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) minor will expose students to robotics and autonomous systems engineering subjects ranging from design, analysis, control, interaction, and operation. Students will be equipped with an understanding of the robotics engineering fundamentals and basic research skills needed to succeed in research and development for the automation, healthcare, and manufacturing industries. The minor will fulfill industry and student demand for experience in the robotics and automation fields

The successful completion of the minor required completing 12 credit hours. Students will take one required course (three credits) and nine credit hours from an approved list of courses. One course must be in a research or specialty area. Higginbotham noted that this is an advanced minor. There are many prerequisites attached to the minor's courses that are clearly listed. Some courses will require instructor permission.

Students will likely be upperclassmen who are majoring in physics or an engineering field.

An assessment plan was included.

The Council suggested some minor edits to the advising sheet for clarification.

The Council asked if there is potential for confusion with multiple advisors. Su responded that there is a coordinator from each program and he does not anticipate any confusion.

The Council also asked if advisors will encourage students to take interdisciplinary courses. Su responded that there is potential for interdisciplinary courses with the electives.

The Council asked if there are current plans to create a similar major. Su responded that there are currently no plans because of resource issues.

Su confirmed that the research courses have to be letter graded, which is the norm in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

The Council asked how the minor's courses were selected. Su responded that courses were submitted by department coordinators. Su added that most students enrolled in the 5000-level courses are undergraduate students.

Slechta expressed concern about the scope of courses. It appears that a student could earn the minor by taking only one robotics course. Higginbotham replied that this is something that could be watched in assessment.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

GENERAL EDUCATION UPDATE – PROFESSOR ERIC BIELEFELD

Bielefeld reported that the final report was published and it is being discussed by the colleges. Bielefeld and Smith have been meeting with the colleges to answer questions and receive updates.

Higginbotham wished the Council a happy spring break.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith
Katie Reed