

## COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### ZOOM

November 18, 2020

3-5 PM

### MINUTES

#### Attendance

##### Faculty:

- ✓ Dr. Rebecca Andridge (College of Public Health)
- ✓ Dr. Anika Anthony (Department of Educational Studies, Graduate School)
- ✓ Dr. Eric Bielefeld (Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Patricia Enciso (Department of Teaching and Learning)
- ✓ Dr. Kevin Evans (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences), Chair
- ✓ Dr. Sara Fowler (College of Dentistry)
- ✓ Dr. Jill Galvan (Department of English)
- ✓ Dr. Pasha Lyvers Peffer (Department of Animal Sciences)
- ✓ Dr. Maria Pruchnicki (College of Pharmacy)
- ✓ Dr. Paul Rose (Moritz College of Law)
- ✓ Dr. Karl Whittington (Department of History of Art)

##### Staff:

- ✓ Mr. Peter Spreitzer (University Exploration)

##### Students:

- ✓ Mr. Ross Bales (IPC, Medicine)
- ✓ Mr. Brandon Bishop (USG, Political Science)
- ✓ Ms. Aviva Neff (CGS, Theatre)
- ✓ Dr. Dustin Servello (CGS, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology)
- ✓ Mr. Sridhar Uppalapati (USG, Engineering Physics)
- Mr. William Vu (IPC, Dentistry)

##### Administrator:

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

##### Guests:

- Ms. Adrienne Bricker (Office of the University Registrar)
- Ms. Danielle Brown (College of Education and Human Ecology)
- Dr. Paulette Curtis (College of Education and Human Ecology)
- Ms. Lisa Delaney (Office of the University Registrar)
- Dr. Rob Griffiths (Office of Distance Education and eLearning)

Dr. Kate Hallihan (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)  
Dr. David Horn (College of Arts and Sciences)  
Ms. Andree' Houston (Office of the University Registrar)  
Dr. Arpana Inman (College of Education and Human Ecology)  
Dr. Alan Kalish (Office of Academic Affairs)  
Dr. Andrew Martin (Office of Academic Affairs)  
Dr. Andrea Prud'homme (Fisher College of Business)  
Ms. Gail Stephenoff (Office of Student Academic Success)  
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)

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

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR – PROFESSOR KEVIN EVANS**

The minutes from the meeting on November 14, 2020 will be reviewed at the Council meeting on December 2, 2020.

The following proposals will be presented at the University Senate meeting on November 19, 2020: the proposal to establish the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay-Ohio State Frontier Science and Engineering Research Center and the proposal to establish the Center for Microbiome Science.

Evans commented that he hopes the Council will be able to devote more agenda time to broad discussion topics.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE VICE CHAIR – PROFESSOR W. RANDY SMITH**

The University's annual Assessment Conference was November 6, 2020. The conference was held virtually because of Covid restrictions. Smith is grateful to the Planning Committee, led by Kalish and Martin, for all its work.

The University's four-year accreditation update is due to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in January 2021. HLC has asked that the report include information on how the University responded to the Covid pandemic. There is an eight-member team working on the report, led by Smith.

There is a subgroup of APAC (Academic Program Advisory Council) working on grading issues related to Spring 2021. Details soon.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) is reviewing the Ohio Transfer Module's (OTM) general education curriculum. A feedback survey was sent to all the Ohio public institutions. Smith expects to see changes to the OTM over the next few years. Martin and Smith are involved.

The Board of Trustees meets on November 18-19, 2020. The following Council proposals will be discussed: name change to the Master of Education in Agriscience; name change to the Department of Theatre; and the addition of a clinical/teaching/practice track in the College of Arts and Sciences. Provost McPherson will also give an update on General Education (GE) implementation. Smith will attend that meeting.

Smith is convening a small group to discuss planning for Autumn 2021 and beyond. The group will have a listening/feedback session with this Council at its meeting on December 2, 2020.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – W. RANDY SMITH**

- **Creation of a non-credit certificate (category 4) in Virtual Teaching – College of Education and Human Ecology**

The Department of Teaching and Learning proposes to create a non-credit, online certificate in Virtual Teaching. The Virtual Teaching Badge prepares teachers to adapt their face-to-face instructional skills and pedagogy to the virtual teaching and learning environment. Participants will learn the basics of virtual teaching, how to select tools and materials for use in virtual learning that focus on student engagement and mastery of content outcomes, techniques for engaging students and parents, and tools and techniques for conducting assessment in the virtual classroom.

Participants will complete four online workshops. The college expects 20 students per section.

This is a non-credit, online certificate and a stand-alone program.

The Council did not express any concerns.

Smith noted that there is a growing interest in certificates across campus.

- **Creation of the Clara D. Bloomfield Center for Leukemia Outcomes Research – Comprehensive Cancer Center**

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC) established the Clara D. Bloomfield Center for Leukemia Outcomes Research. The center is named after the late Clara D. Bloomfield, MD, a Distinguished University Professor who served as cancer scholar and senior adviser to the OSUCCC. The center will further her decades of groundbreaking research in hematologic malignancies with the goal to better classify and risk-stratify leukemia and associated diseases, including the identification of personalized treatment options for individual patients.

The center is initially supported by a \$5 million OSUCCC commitment, which will be voted on by the Board of Trustees.

Since the Clara D. Bloomfield Center for Leukemia Outcomes Research is a center within a larger center (OSUCCC), a formal proposal is not needed.

The Council did not express any concerns.

### **PROPOSED ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2029-30 – MS. ADRIENNE BRICKER**

The Council on Enrollment Strategic Planning (CESP) approves the University's academic calendar 10 years in advance. Typically, the academic calendar does not generate much discussion because there are few changes. Prior to the Covid pandemic, however, Undergraduate Student Government (USG) had passed a resolution to add reading days to help with mental health.

Bricker shared that CESP has looked at three ways to add days to the academic calendar:

- Option 1: Start each semester a day earlier. In Autumn 2029, this would be a Monday. In Spring 2030, this would be a Friday.
- Option 2: Take away a break day.
- Options 3: End each semester a day later.

Bricker noted that Option 3 would not allow diplomas to be distributed at commencement, which is a long-standing Ohio State tradition and one unique to the University.

Bricker has already shared the proposed calendars and options with Faculty Council and Student Affairs. She is now seeking input from this Council. Comments included the following:

- Uppalapati shared that USG supports Option 1. Students do not want to lose a break day.
- The University community needs to decide what is more important—breaks or additional reading days.
- Not having a full week for spring break may hinder immersion projects such as study abroad and service trips.
- Break days are particularly important for seven-week courses.
- Servello noted that he attended an institution that started classes on a Friday. While it was often mocked by students, it worked well and let individuals ease into the semester.
- Need to consider the dates when nine-month faculty are on duty.
- Bricker added that an ideal semester calendar has matching instructional days and weeks. For example, a 14-week semester would have 14 Mondays, 14 Tuesdays, etc. The proposed Autumn 2029 schedule only has 13 Mondays. This is hard for classes that only meet once per week. A solution would be a conversion day, which is used by many universities. The Council was supportive of a conversion day, but noted that clear communication would be critical for instructors and students
- Some institutions have a mini term between autumn and spring semesters. Perhaps this is something the University should consider for the future.

- Is the University considering observing Election Day as a holiday? Both the Council of Graduate Students and USG have passed resolutions supporting this move. Bricker responded that the University is considering it, but that it would be yet another day that would have to be made up.

Bricker thanked the Council for its feedback.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Evans noted that there are several proposals in the queue for the Council meeting on December 2, 2020.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith  
Katie Reed