

## COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

### ZOOM

April 15, 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. Diane Boghrat (Department of Integrated Systems Engineering)
- 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. Kate Hallihan (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)

Ms. Jill Hampshire (Office of Enrollment Services)  
Dr. Christopher Hans (Department of Statistics)  
Dr. Garrett Heysel (College of Arts and Sciences)  
Dr. David Horn (College of Arts and Sciences)  
Ms. Tia Jones (Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)  
Dr. Alan Kalish (Office of Academic Affairs)  
Dr. Susan Kline (School of Communication)  
Dr. Andrew Martin (Office of Academic Affairs)  
Dr. Glenn Martinez (Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)  
Dr. Srinivasan Parthasarathy (Department of Computer Science and Engineering)  
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonello (College of Engineering)  
Dr. Emma Read (College of Veterinary Medicine)  
Dr. Ramteen Sioshansi (Department of Integrated Systems Engineering)  
Dr. Shari Speer (Graduate School)  
Ms. Gail Stephenoff (Office of Student Academic Success)  
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)  
Dr. Tiffany Wild (Department of Teaching and Learning)  
Dr. Jennifer Willging (Department of French and Italian)

**The meeting came to order at 3:01 p.m.**

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE CO-CHAIR – PROFESSOR JENNIFER HIGGINBOTHAM**

Higginbotham greeted the meeting attendees and their pets.

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

At the end of today's meeting, the Council will take some time to discuss how April is going so far with the changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The University is preparing for Summer Term. There are over 2,600 courses on the books for SU20. Of those courses, 700 are already approved for distance-learning (DL) delivery. Smith is working with the college curricular deans on the remaining 1,900 courses. Small enrollment courses such as independent studies and research courses are automatically being converted to an online delivery. This leaves about 800 courses remaining for DL review. Currently, those courses are being reviewed by the colleges. If they are converted to an online delivery, the units will complete an assurance review in May 2020.

The University is still not ready to announce plans for Autumn 2020.

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

- **Proposal to create a new Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Data-Driven Sustainable Energy Systems – College of Engineering**

Guests: Diane Boghrat, Administrative Associate, Department of Integrated Systems Engineering; Ramteen Sioshansi, Department of Integrated Systems Engineering)

The Department of Integrated Systems Engineering proposes to create a new Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization (GIS) in Data-Driven Sustainable Energy Systems. This proposal has been reviewed by the GS/CAA Combined Curriculum Committee.

Sustainable energy solutions require convergence training that integrated knowledge across disciplinary boundaries. Future leaders working in sustainable energy need trans-disciplinary training in energy-system modeling, data science, energy policy, business, and energy technologies. The Data-dRIVEN sustainable Energy Systems (DRIVES) GIS will provide this training.

DRIVES consists of three program elements: a foundation course, a series of four elective courses, and a culminating capstone course.

The Council noted that GIS will appeal to students across many programs. How will the program ensure that students will take courses outside their home field? Sioshansi responded that students will work with advisors to make sure there is an interdisciplinary focus.

Andridge applauded the proposers for the quality of the submission.

Before asking for a vote, Higginbotham noted that only Council members should vote. Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward with one abstention.

- **Proposal to establish a Graduate Certificate – Ohio Alternative Licensure Professional Development Institute for Visual Impairment Education – College of Education and Human Ecology**

Guest: Tiffany Wild, Associate Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

The Department of Teaching and Learning proposes a graduate certificate to establish the Ohio Alternative Licensure Professional Development Institute for Visual Impairment Education. This proposal has been reviewed by the Combined GS/CAA Curriculum Committee.

The category 5b certificate is designed for individuals who are granted licensure through the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Alternative Licensure Program for Visual Impairment Education (P-12). The certificate is composed of six courses that are already in existence.

Wild clarified that Ohio State only controls the coursework. The Ohio Department of Higher Education will award the licensure. Wild also noted that the licensure requirement was mandated by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). ODE also requested that Ohio State develop this certificate.

Wild noted that there is a large demand for this licensure in Ohio and nationally. Currently, the need is so great that teachers are teaching without the proper licensure. This certificate will be only one of two offered in Ohio. Curtis added that Ohio State's visual impairment program has grown exponentially over the past several years.

The Council noted that the in-person classes will be held on Saturdays. Will weekend offerings be included in the certificate's advertising? Some students may have religious conflicts. Wild responded that the department has always made accommodations for students who have class conflicts. In 10 years, there were only two conflicts that could not be resolved. Wild added that Saturday sessions are typically experiences that cannot be taught online.

Higginbotham noted that the department has been working on this proposal for a long time. Evans thanked Wild for all her hard work with the Combined GS/CAA Subcommittee.

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

- **Proposal to create a combined Bachelor's and Master's degree program in French and Francophone Studies – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Jennifer Willging, Associate Professor, Department of French and Italian

The Department of French and Italian proposes to create a combined Bachelor's and Master's program in French and Francophone Studies. This proposal has been reviewed by the combined Graduate School /Council on Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) Curriculum Committee.

The combined Bachelor's and Master's program in French and Francophone Studies will offer undergraduate students the opportunity to complete two degrees in French in only five years, preparing them for the job market, PhD programs, or professional degree programs.

French majors will apply for the program in their junior year. Applications will be submitted through the Graduate School.

Students must complete all requirements for the BA in French and all the requirements for the MA in French. Up to nine hours of graduate coursework may overlap, counting for both degrees.

Higginbotham noted that the program will not be funded by the department, but that students do not have the opportunity to apply for scholarships and grants. Willging added that the department used to fund MA students, but it can no longer do so because of budget cuts. The combined degree program will at least be less expensive than the traditional two-year graduate program. Higginbotham remarked that this Council may similar programs from other units in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Council did not express any concerns.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward unanimously.

- **Proposal to establish an Undergraduate Certificate in Science and Environmental Communication – College of Arts and Science**

Guest: Susan Kline, Associate Professor, School of Communication

The School of Communication proposes to establish an undergraduate certificate in Science and Environmental Communication.

The type 1b certificate will serve students wishing to expand their capabilities in environment and sustainability communication, communication in a wide range of scientific and technical disciplines, and with regard to science communication more generally. The program will educate students on the theory and practice of communicating about scientific, environmental, and/or sustainability topics and issues, provides an opportunity for developing lifelong professional communication skills, and highlights the interdisciplinary social-behavioral, educational, and psychological dimensions of science and environmental communication.

The certificate program requires 12 credits of coursework with six credits stemming from two required courses and six credits selected from a list of pre-determined electives.

The School expects 50-60 students to enroll.

Higginbotham noted that it took a while for the school to receive all the necessary concurrences for this certificate.

The Council asked if any of the electives have hidden prerequisites. Kline responded to most do not, but any prerequisites are noted.

Higginbotham clarified that the certificate is not currently an online program.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward unanimously.

- **Proposal to establish an Undergraduate Minor in American Sign Language – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Tia Jones, Interim Director and Program Coordinator, American Sign Language Program; Glenn Martinez, Director, Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

The Center for Languages, Literatures, and Cultures proposes to establish an undergraduate minor in American Sign Language Studies.

The minor in American Sign Languages (ASL) Studies will focus on developing intercultural competencies in a visual language which is not only semantically and grammatically different from the students' own language, but to also broaden and enrich their knowledge of and their respect for ASL and the communities who use it.

The ASL Studies minor consists of 12 hours of coursework beyond ASL 1103. All students must take three required core courses and then select one course from a list of electives.

An assessment plan was included.

Higginbotham remarked that this minor has been in development for a long time.

Spreitzer noted that the ASL introductory course is very popular and there is usually a waitlist. With the creation of this new minor, will there be enough sections of the introductory course? Jones replied that the center is looking into adding sections of the course. The center does typically open additional sections right before the semester by monitoring enrollment and the waitlist. Martinez added that instructor availability does sometimes limit the number of course sections available. ASL classes are staffed by senior lecturers.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward unanimously.

- **Proposal to revise the Biomedical Informatics Specialization in the Data Analytics Major, Bachelor of Science degree – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Christopher Hans, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics; Srinivasan Parthasarathy, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

The College of Arts and Sciences proposes to revise the Biomedical Informatics Specialization in the Data Analytics BS.

The proposed revisions are in response to increasing interest and demand for integrating more health-related content into the curriculum for the Data Analytics major. Representatives from the Data Analytics major met with representatives from the College of Public Health and the College of Medicine

met to discuss incorporating public health content/courses with a select subset of courses under the current Biomedical Informatics specialization to develop the modified specialization in Biomedical and Public Health Analytics.

The revised specialization consists of a combination of courses that include foundational content (9-10 credits) delivered via here courses. Additional basic and applied content is attained via an additional elective (2-3 credits) plus a capstone experience (4 credits). The Biomedical and Public Health Analytics specialization requires 15-17 credit hours compared to the 21 credit hours that the current specialization requires.

Students who have already declared Biomedical Informatics as their specialization subplan will be allowed to complete the major under the revised (smaller) number of credit hours while using any courses they have already completed in the existing specialization toward this end.

Andridge informed the Council that the College of Public Health is very excited to become a curricular partner in this major. There is a lot of interest in the major.

Andridge also noted that there are some online courses that are part of the major and she expects the number of online courses offerings to increase.

The Council did not express any concerns.

Smith remarked that the Data Analytics major is one of the most successful interdisciplinary majors at the University.

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

## **TRANSITION INTO SUMMER SEMESTER**

The Council discussed the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on Spring Semester and as the University transitions into the Summer Term.

Concerns included the following:

- Faculty workload and work-life balance.
- Difficulties surrounding library access, particularly for graduate courses.
- Childcare/parent care issues.
- Need more guidance on performance-based courses.
- Is there enough staff support for faculty to successfully offer online courses in summer semester?
- Large courses and exam proctoring.

- Misinformation/misunderstanding on the pass/no pass option.
- Student stress.

Smith noted that, bureaucratically, the university is not used to such rapid transitions. It is an adjustment for all.

Many on the Council are impressed by the innovations from faculty and students.

The due date for college feedback on the General Education (GE) revision has been delayed until Autumn 2020. Any feedback comments should go to Daly and Smith. They will share with the GE Support Team. Smith clarified that this Council will not approve again unless there is a change to the program's structure.

The next CAA meeting is on May 11, 2020.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith  
Katie Reed