

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

200 Bricker Hall

November 20, 2019

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:

Mr. Christopher Adams (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)
Dr. Gil Bohrer (Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering)
Ms. Danielle Brown (College of Education and Human Ecology)
Dr. Steve Fink (College of Arts and Sciences)
Dr. Rob Greenbaum (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)

Ms. Jill Hampshire (Office of Student Academic Success)
Dr. Blaine Lilly (Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Dr. Andrew Martin (Office of Academic Affairs)
Dr. Joe Ponce (Department of English)
Ms. Rosie Quinzon-Bonnello (College of Engineering)
Dr. Kristina Sessa (Department of History)
Dr. Shari Speer (Graduate School)
Ms. Jackie Stotlar (Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)
Dr. Ben Tepper (Fisher College of Business)
Dr. Bernadette Vankeerbergen (College of Arts and Sciences)
Dr. Shannon Winnubst (Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)
Dr. Ningchuan Xiao (Department of Geography)
Dr. Walter Zinn (Department of Marketing and Logistics)

The meeting came to order at 3 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE CO-CHAIR – PROFESSOR JENNIFER HIGGINBOTHAM

In its recent newsletter, the GE Implementation Committee made a call for feedback on the new theme proposal process. Please encourage your colleagues to review it and provide feedback.

The Fisher College of Business will attend a February meeting of this Council to give an update on its programmatic development and enrollment plans.

Martin will substitute for Smith, who is attending a Board of Trustees Committee meeting at this time.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE D – PROFESSORS JENNIFER HIGGINBOTHAM AND ANDREW MARTIN

- **Proposal to change the title of the Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering degree programs – College of Engineering**

Guest: Blaine Lilly, Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering proposes to change the name of its Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering degree to Aerospace Engineering. This change is requested for the Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees. This proposal has been reviewed by the Combined GS/CAA Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

In 2009, this Council approved the merger of the Mechanical and Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering Departments into a single Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department. At the time of the merger, no attempt was made to change the name of the programs. Since the merger, there has been some confusion as to why the department and program names do not match. This change will put the program name in alignment with the department name. In addition, it will also bring the program name in alignment with other institutions. Aeronautical and Astronautical are now considered dated terms.

Lilly noted that the aerospace program is relatively young. It was developed post-World War II.

The Council did not express any concerns.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

Lilly encouraged the Council to submit feedback on the revised GE. He is a co-chair of the GE Implementation Committee.

- **Proposal to create an undergraduate minor in Civic Engagement – John Glenn College of Public Affairs**

Guests: Christopher Adams, Director of Student Services, John Glenn College of Public Affairs; Rob Greenbaum, Associate Dean, John Glenn College of Public Affairs

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs proposes the creation of an undergraduate minor in Civic Engagement.

The new minor will introduce students to the theories of democratic participation, social equity, and collaborative governance that underpin public participation in institutions to affect social and political change. This minor will be similar to the major track in Civic Engagement, but for students outside the major.

The minor consists of 15 credit hours composed of two required core courses, one elective focusing on political engagement, one elective focusing on community engagement, and one experiential requirement met through either an internship or service-learning course. The electives and experiential courses can be taken outside the John Glenn College.

The college expects to initially attract 15-20 undergraduates with a goal of 50 undergraduate minors by 2021.

Adams noted that civil engagement is a core pillar of the college and of Senator Glenn's legacy.

The Council asked if there will be a service requirement beyond the experiential requirement. Greenbaum said there would not be.. He noted that the college wanted to keep the experiential requirement broad for greater student flexibility.

Andridge remarked that the minor seems like a program that will interest many students.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

PROPOSALS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE B – PROFESSORS KEVIN EVANS, ERIC BIELEFELD, ROBERTO MYERS; MR. NAT CROWLEY, MR. PETER SPREITZER, AND MR. BLAKE SZKODA

- **Proposal to deactivate the Sexuality Studies Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree program – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guests: Joe Ponce, Associate Professor, Department of English;

Jackie Stotlar, Program Coordinator, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Shannon Winnubst, Chair, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The College of Arts and Sciences proposes to deactivate the Sexuality Studies BA program.

The request to deactivate the Sexuality Studies BA is largely driven by lack of personnel and fiscal resources. In the wake of a two-year review of the Arts and Humanities centers, the administrative unit in which Sexuality Studies was housed was disbanded. It was assumed that the major would be moved thereafter into the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). WGSS, however, does not have the resources or faculty expertise to oversee the major. Outside WGSS, there are not enough faculty to consistently offer core courses. Many of the faculty who had this expertise have left the University and they have not been replaced.

No new students will be enrolled in the major. Students expressing interest in the field will be directed to the Sexuality Studies minor and the WGSS major and minor.

Students currently enrolled in the program will be able to complete it. Once all current majors have graduated, the major’s deactivation will become effective. The program expects that the last majors will graduate in Spring 2022.

Ponce and Winnubst commented that it is never happy to sunset a major. Winnubst commented that she thinks the deactivation is more related to faculty departing than a lack of student interest.

The Council asked if current students have been notified of the potential deactivation. Ponce replied that he plans to tell students once it is officially approved.

The Council asked if there are plans to deactivate or suspend the GIS in Sexuality Studies. Ponce responded that there have not been any new queries about the GIS since semester conversion.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward with two abstentions. The Council noted that deactivations are difficult when it's a fiscally-related issue. Evans added that, while it is unfortunate, it is important to be transparent about course and program offerings/availability.

- **Proposal to revise the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies(WGSS) Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Undergraduate Minor Programs – College of Arts and Sciences**

Jackie Stotlar, Program Coordinator, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Shannon Winnubst, Chair, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies proposes to revise its Bachelor of Arts and undergraduate minor programs.

The proposed new undergraduate major eliminates the four concentration areas that are the center of the current curriculum, in which students choose one area to build a specialization. The proposed new curriculum instead requires students to take three core courses in addition to the prerequisite introductory course. The new curriculum is representative of the expertise of its multi-disciplinary faculty, and draws from the department's strengths in interdisciplinary methods and research areas.

The revised major will require four core courses and seven electives. Changes include: replacing WGSS 2300 with 375 as a core course; removing major concentration areas; and, requiring an elective course designated as a Global and Transnational Feminism course in addition to an elective course designated as a Women of Color course. In addition, the definitions and metrics used to determine the Women of Color course was changed for both the major and minor.

The Council asked if the department expects many students to do the thesis option or if most will do the capstone. Winnubst replied that they expect most to do the capstone, though Honors students may be interested in the thesis.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward with two abstentions.

- **Proposal to revise the Sexuality Studies minor – College of Arts and Sciences**

Jackie Stotlar, Program Coordinator, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Shannon Winnubst, Chair, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies proposes to revise and rename the Sexuality Studies minor.

With the deactivation of the Sexuality Studies major, the current Sexuality Studies minor will be renamed the LGBTQ+ Studies Minor. Like the current minor, the LGBTQ+ minor will be comprised of coursework that stresses the interdisciplinary study of human sexualities, and in particular non-normative sexualities and the concept of heterosexuality against which they are typically defined. The minor requires 12 credit hours consisting of one required course, one foundations course from an approved list, and six credit hours of electives from an approved list.

Winnubst remarked that the department thinks this minor aligns well with its values, as well as the values of the University and Columbus.

The department would like the effective term to be Autumn 2020.

The Council remarked that it is pleased to see a cross-college program. In particular, the Council was happy to see a course from the College of Medicine on the elective list.

The Council asked if courses will be offered consistently enough for a student to earn a minor in a timely manner. Winnubst replied that the department has no concerns with course availability.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried forward with two abstentions.

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

- **Proposal to establish a graduate minor in History – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Kristina Sessa, Associate Professor, Department of History

The Department of History proposes to establish a graduate minor in History. This proposal has been approved by the combined Graduate School/Council on Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

Graduate students in many programs across the university work on historical subjects that would benefit greatly from an in-depth analysis of the era's history. Many students already work informally with history faculty. The graduate minor in History will formalize this work and offer students the opportunity to earn a credential outside of his/her discipline. In addition, the minor will advertise the department's enthusiasm for interdisciplinary relationships.

The graduate minor consists of a minimum of 10 credit hours, including the prerequisite course. The prerequisite course was included because the department wants students to understand the requirements of historical study at the graduate level.

The department anticipates an enrollment of 5-10 students per semester.

Sessa informed the Council that this proposal had unanimous support from the department's faculty.

The Council asked if the minor follows the Graduate School's rules regarding 5000-level courses and the major/minor overlap. Sessa replied in the affirmative.

Sessa noted that the minor will enhance a student's graduate degree. Some institutions—such as community colleges—look for general humanities instructors. Having credentials in two areas of the humanities may give an edge to a students.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

- **Proposal to create a new certificate in Geographic Information Science and Technology – College of Arts and Sciences**

Guest: Ningchuan Xiao, Professor, Department of Geography

The Department of Geography proposes to create a new certificate (type 3a and 3b) in Geographic Information Science and Technology. This proposal has been approved by the combined GS/CAA Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The overall goal of the proposed certificate program is to provide graduate students in various disciplines, and continuing students working in government and private agencies, which professional and technical training in geographic information science and technology (GIST). By completing the program students will develop their methodological and technical skills in mapping, spatial analysis, remote sensing, and geospatial data analytics that will help them advance their research and career.

The minor requires a minimum of 12 credit hours, consisting of one required course (three credit hours), two elective courses (six credit hours), and one specialty course (three credit hours). The department provided approved lists of elective and specialty courses.

The department anticipates an enrollment of 12 students.

Higginbotham commented that the proposal shows a clear industry demand for individuals with a GIST background, as well as student interest in the field. There are few similar programs in the State.

The Council asked if undergraduate students will still have access to the 5000-level courses that can be counted toward this certificate. Xiao replied that there should still be capacity for undergraduate students. The department may eventually offer the courses online to accommodate more students.

Andridge commented that she expects there will be a lot of demand for an online certificate. If the department goes that route, it will need to work with the Office of Distance Education and eLearning.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

- **Proposal to create a new specialization in Environmental Engineering – College of Engineering**

Guest: Gil Bohrer, Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering

The Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering proposes to create a new specialization in Environmental Engineering. This proposal has been approved by the combined GS/CAA Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The Master's and PhD programs already have a track in Environmental Engineering. The department would like this track to be a transcriptable specialization. There are no changes to the existing program; rather, this is a request to acknowledge existing work.

This addition will align the graduate programs with the undergraduate program offerings. The department already offers an undergraduate degree in Environmental Engineering.

Bohrer noted the Environmental Engineering is a distinct program at most universities.

The Council did not express any concerns.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

- **Proposal to suspend the Master in Business Logistics Engineering – Fisher College of Business**

Guest: Ben Tepper, Associate Dean, Fisher College of Business; Walter Zinn, Department of Marketing and Logistics

The Fisher College of Business proposes to suspend the Master in Business Logistics Engineering program. This proposal has been approved by the combined GS/CAA Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council.

The Master in Business Logistics Engineering (MBLE) was created in 2005 by the Fisher College of Business (FCOB) in partnership with the College of Engineering (COE). At the time, there was high-demand from students. Since 2012, however, applications have fallen by over 50%. The primary reasons for the drop in applications has been increased competition and tightening of US visa rules for overseas students. In addition, FCOB and COE have decided to end the scholarship program that has been offered to the last three cohorts of MBLE students.

At its current enrollment rates, the program is losing money. The program needs 30 students to breakeven and the colleges do not anticipate getting to that number again based on the national trends.

The suspension will go into effect in Summer 2020.

Andridge commented that it is a shame that a program with high female enrollment is being deactivated.

The Council asked if the program's courses will still be offered. Tepper replied that they will be offered because the courses are part of several programs. The colleges may end up with smaller course sections, though. While the colleges will not save money with the elimination of courses, it will save money in overhead expenses (advising, administration, recruitment, and stipends).

Speer commented that the Ohio Department of Higher Education only allows a program suspension while there are students enrolled. After five years, the program will automatically be deactivated. If the program is deactivated, it would require a new program request to reactivate.

Higginbotham moved approval of the recommendation; it carried unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,

W. Randy Smith

Katie Reed