



Meeting Minutes
Monday, 15 August 2025
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Leadership present: Chair Edward Dauterich; Secretaries Therese E. Tillett, Joanna Liedel, Jennifer S. Kellogg, Amy Nuesch, Christa N. Ord, Kristi M. Kamis

Administrators present: Interim Associate Provost Scott C. Sheridan; Deans Peggy Shadduck, Deborah F. Spake

Faculty present: Professors Luke Armour, Jen Cunningham, Michael J. Ensley, Robert D. Jewell, Karen L. Mascolo, Helen Piontkivska, Steven Rugare, J K. Vick; Associate Professor Brian R. Barber, Bethany G. Lanese, Abe G. Osbourne, JD Ponder, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Sue Wamsley; Assistant Professor Tianyuan Guan, Jason Lorenzon, Janet M. Reed; Senior Lecturer Kingsly T. Berlin, Shelley K. Marshall

Faculty not present: Associate Professor Vanessa J. Earp; Assistant Professor Abdelhakim Al Turk

Students present: Iyanuoluwa Ogunmiluyi, Rick Skains

Guests: Mandy Anderson, Salma Benhida, Christina Bloebaum, Sean Broghammer, Frank Congin, Alicia Crowe, Chris Dorsten, Susan Emens, Liz Piatt, Matthew Rollyson, Hollie Simpson, Alison Smith, Kathy Spicer, Jennifer Walton-Fisette, Deirdre Warren, Sharon Wohl, Cathy Zingrone

Chair Dauterich called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m., on Monday, 15 September 2025, via Microsoft Teams.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting on 25 August 2025

Associate Professor Ponder made a motion to approve, and Professor Piontkivska seconded the motion.

With no comments or corrections, the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Presentation

A. SB1 Updates

[VIEW THE PRESENTATION](#)

Interim Associate Provost Sheridan provided an update on SB1 implementation, noting that five Provost-initiated working groups with 44 members, including 23 faculty, are addressing state-

mandated deadlines. Key updates included: selection of Simple Higher Ed as the vendor for publicly accessible syllabi, with a pilot in Spring 2026 and full implementation by Fall 2026; identification of 24 low degree conferral programs, with 5 full and 19 temporary waiver requests submitted in August; development of an American Civic Literacy course requirement for all students beginning Fall 2026, with two courses identified for initial launch and Board of Trustees approval of the Civic Literacy Plan due September 30, 2025; implementation of three state-mandated student evaluation questions in SSI forms starting Fall 2025; and adoption of an intellectual diversity policy requiring compliance statements on new and revised courses. Interim Associate Provost Sheridan emphasized the tight timelines and the goal of aligning compliance with existing university processes.

Professor Piontkivska asked whether the Faculty Senate revised the intellectual diversity statement from “I affirm that this course” to “this course.”

Secretary Tillett confirmed the revised language will be added to CIM for courses.

Associate Professor Ponder asked if units will be receiving more information as to what intellectual diversity means in regard to new courses.

Interim Associate Provost Sheridan said that information will be shared when it is available.

Senior Lecturer Marshall asked how the five programs were selected for waivers and if a program that requested a one-year waiver could later request a two-year waiver.

Interim Associate Provost Sheridan explained that programs were selected based on enrollment pipelines. Programs showing growth received two-year waivers, while those in decline received one-year waivers, which cannot be extended and require suspension of admissions.

Interim Associate Provost Sheridan confirmed that the Faculty Senate-approved revision to the intellectual diversity statement language will be updated in CIM. He asked Secretary Tillett to clarify the status of implementation.

Secretary Tillett said the change requires vendor action and will be added to CIM but remain hidden until the state sets an implementation date. Once active, all new or revised course proposals will require a response to the intellectual diversity question. She also clarified that the requirement applies to courses only, not programs.

Associate Dean Warren asked when decisions on the waiver requests might be announced.

Interim Associate Provost Sheridan said the state has only acknowledged receipt of the requests and provided no timeline, but updates are expected soon.

Interim Associate Provost Sheridan concluded by noting that he will continue to provide updates throughout the semester given the fast-paced deadlines.

B. Admission Review of Enrollment Trends: Domestic and International[VIEW THE PRESENTATION](#)

VP Broghammer provided an enrollment overview for Fall 2025. First-time freshman enrollment declined by just over 200 students compared to Fall 2024, and transfer enrollment was down about 5% (40 students). Undergraduate enrollment overall has grown due to persistence of larger recent cohorts. Regional campuses showed stabilization, with over 1,300 new first-year students, the largest since 2021. College Credit Plus enrollment continues to rise. Graduate enrollment declined, particularly at the master's level, with smaller declines at the doctoral level. Overall, Kent Campus enrollment is down about 2% in headcount and 1.5% in FTE, while regional campuses are down 1% in headcount but slightly ahead in FTE. VP Broghammer noted positives in the incoming class, including stable GPA (3.57), over 560 Honors College students, strong representation of high-need and first-generation students, and record or near-record first-year classes in several colleges. Students were drawn from across Ohio, 43 states and DC, and 41 new countries, contributing to an overall international student population from about 95 countries.

Director Benhaida reported on international enrollment trends. International student numbers increased steadily after the pandemic but declined in Fall 2025, mainly due to a national drop in graduate enrollment (especially from India and in fields such as computer science and business analytics) and restrictive immigration policies, including a temporary visa pause. Kent State's graduate international enrollment declined by 37%, though undergraduate international enrollment increased, partially offsetting losses. She highlighted ongoing challenges: extreme vetting requirements delaying visas, increased visa denials, continuing travel bans affecting certain regions, and new restrictions requiring students to return to their home country for visa renewals. Director Benhaida also expressed concern about a proposed Homeland Security rule limiting international students to a fixed four-year stay for bachelor's programs, requiring costly extensions through federal review if additional time is needed. She noted this could deter students and create significant administrative burdens. Despite challenges, Kent State welcomed five new Fulbright students this fall, with the program continuing, though some other exchange programs have been discontinued nationally.

Chair Dauterich asked what they forecast for both domestic and international enrollment for Fall 2026.

Director Benhaida said that, if all remains the same and no new regulations are implemented beyond those already discussed, they could see another decline in enrollment. She noted that they hope to maintain between 1,600 and 1,800 international students for next fall.

Chair Dauterich asked whether the limit on duration of study would affect OPT.

Director Benhaida said that currently it does not, although a senator has proposed eliminating OPT, but the proposal has not gained traction.

VP Broghammer then continued with additional slides, discussing enrollment trends over the next decade. He noted that the "enrollment cliff" is better described as a long, slow declining slope, with Ohio high school graduates peaking last year and projected to decline gradually to 2041. He emphasized that the college-going rate is also declining, from around 67–68% in previous years to 61–62% currently, which is a concern for university enrollment.

VP Broghammer shared survey results from EAB showing that parents' biggest concerns are college costs, scholarships and debt, and that career outcomes are a key factor in evaluating the value of higher education. Students' top concerns are also affordability, debt and qualification for financial aid.

VP Broghammer then discussed Kent State-specific enrollment patterns, noting record applications and admits across colleges. He highlighted a drop in yield for Arts and Sciences, with 150 fewer students, largely concentrated in psychology. He noted that financial aid competitiveness likely contributed to this trend and mentioned ongoing strategy sessions with faculty to address these issues.

VP Broghammer also reviewed geographic enrollment trends. Northeast Ohio, Columbus and Pittsburgh markets are strong, though Western PA shows some decline due to overlap with other institutions. Cincinnati and out-of-region markets remain steady.

VP Broghammer concluded by noting enrollment goals for next fall: 4,200 first-year undergraduates, around 800 transfer students, and a need to monitor graduate enrollment, which saw approximately 200 fewer new graduate students this fall. He emphasized that undergraduate growth is occurring at junior and senior levels, with students staying for fifth-year completion.

Secretary Tillett asked about enrollment strategies, noting that other universities, such as the University of Cincinnati, have aggressively grown their enrollment and that Kent State has lost some market share in the Pittsburgh area. She asked whether offering more scholarships is part of the goal and whether such an approach is sustainable.

VP Broghammer responded that other Ohio institutions have significantly increased their scholarship spending, for example, from \$53 million to \$85 million over three years—resulting in enrollment growth but only minimal revenue increases. He explained that while aggressive scholarship models can drive growth, they may become unsustainable when growth slows. He noted that Kent State has taken a more cautious approach, balancing positive freshman tuition revenue growth with sustainable scholarship practices. He acknowledged that this year's approach may have been slightly conservative but emphasized the intent to avoid unsustainable practices.

III. Program Proposals Review

A. Discussion Items

College of Aeronautics and Engineering

1. School of Engineering

Industrial and Systems Engineering - B.S.—Initial inquiry to establish a new degree program; full proposal to come to EPC for a vote at later date

[VIEW THE DISCUSSION](#)

Dean Bloebaum provided an overview of the School of Engineering and the School of Aeronautics, highlighting the synergy between theoretical and engineering technology programs. She outlined the proposed Industrial and Systems Engineering program, emphasizing complementary opportunities for students and alignment with employer needs. Dean Bloebaum shared enrollment trends, including growth in theoretical programs from 41 to 171 students over five years, and noted the potential for even larger enrollment in the new program.

She discussed international 2+2 partnerships and efforts to expand College Credit Plus offerings, as well as graduate-level opportunities in Quality Systems and Engineering Management. Dean Bloebaum highlighted workforce demand, citing an 11% growth rate in industrial engineering nationally, strong Ohio employment (#4 in the U.S.), and regional manufacturing demand. She compared program competition, noting distinctions from nearby accredited programs at Ohio State, Wright State, Ohio University and Youngstown State, emphasizing that Kent State's program is both more theoretical and mathematically grounded.

Dean Bloebaum also described faculty capacity, required new courses (only three), and the use of academic and research labs. She concluded with details on the Digital Engineering Design Center, funded by the Department of Defense, and its partnership with the University of Texas El Paso, emphasizing the program's differentiation and national significance.

Associate Professor Wamsley asked for clarification on whether new programs receive Provost approval before being added.

Dean Bloebaum explained that she has provided all necessary information to the Provost, but the Provost reviews programs only after they go through the EPC. She emphasized that this program is expected to be the college's largest and addresses a significant gap in Northeast Ohio, noting the region's importance in manufacturing parts for Boeing and Airbus. Dean Bloebaum highlighted that Kent State's program will be more rigorous and distinct from the only other local program, which is a Bachelor of Engineering which is focused more on process.

Professor Piontkivska asked about competition from nearby universities in Western Pennsylvania, such as the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon and Penn State, and how the program will address potential challenges from larger institutions.

Dean Bloebaum responded that outreach and recruitment occur across multiple states, and while there is some overlap with other universities, Kent State's program offers unique advantages, including cross-fertilization with aeronautics and specialized minors. She emphasized that industrial and systems engineering is a top national need and that students from Ohio and the region, along with industry partners, will be drawn to the program, ensuring growth despite competition.

With no further questions or comments, Chair Dauterich concluded the meeting at 4:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christa N. Ord

Operations and Special Projects Coordinator, Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost