



KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
Educational Policies Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, 25 August 2025
[VIEW THE MEETING](#)

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 Jillian S. Coorey, Jen Cunningham, Michael J. Ensley, Robert D. Jewell, Karen L. Mascolo, Helen Pitontkivska, JD Ponder, J K. Vick; Associate Professors Brian R. Barber, Bethany G. Lanese, Abe G. Osbourne, Jonathan F. Swoboda, Sue Wamsley; Assistant Professors Tianyuan Guan, Jason Lorenzon, Janet M. Reed; Senior Lecturers Kingsly T. Berlin, Shelley K. Marshall

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

Students present: Jordan Lytle (Spring), Iyanuoluwa Ogunmiluyi, Rick Skains

Guests: Frank Congin, Scott Courtney, Alicia Crowe, Douglas Delahanty, Steve Dennis, Chris Dorsten, Michael Fisch, Carla Goar, Liz Piatt, Matthew Rollyson, Steven Rugare, Hollie Simpson, Alison Smith, Kathy Spicer, Jennifer Walton-Fisette, Deirdre Warren, Cathy Zingrone

Secretary Tillett called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m., on Monday, 25 August 2025, via Microsoft Teams.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting on 19 May 2025

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

With no comments or corrections, the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Presentation

A. Orientation for New and Returning Members

About EPC—[VIEW](#)

Reviewing CIM proposals—[VIEW](#)

Website Resources—[VIEW](#)

Secretary Kellogg, Associate Director of the Office of Curriculum Services, provided an overview of the Educational Policies Council (EPC) for attendees. She explained the purpose and structure of EPC, emphasizing its role as a committee of Faculty Senate responsible for overseeing long-term curricular planning, academic program proposals and related policy changes. Secretary Kellogg highlighted the importance of faculty participation in EPC's subcommittees and encouraged members to engage in discussions to ensure proposals align with the university's mission and student success. She outlined the procedural steps for submitting curricular changes, including course additions, program revisions and the review process through faculty committees, the Board of Trustees and accrediting bodies like the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Secretary Kellogg also reviewed the EPC meeting schedule, voting procedures and the process for reviewing proposals. She encouraged members to review agendas, ask questions ahead of meetings and participate in the process to ensure smooth and effective decision-making. Additionally, she mentioned the availability of resources, including training on curriculum management software, and encouraged members to review the EPC member guidelines for a clearer understanding of proposal workflows.

III. Academic Unit Proposals Review

A. Action Items

Division of Research and Economic Development

1. Anti-Racism and Equity Institute —Revise name to Community Engaged Research Institute; EPC previously approved name change to Arc Institute on 19-May-25 (fall 2025)

[VIEW THE DISCUSSION](#)

VP of Research and Economic Development, Doug Delahanty, provided an update on the proposed name change for the Anti-Racism and Equity Institute (AREI). He explained that last semester a proposal was made to rename the institute *The ARC Institute*, but concerns were raised that the name was inconsistent with the naming conventions of other research institutes and might appear to minimize or obscure its focus. In response, and considering the context of SB1, the institute has adopted a new proposed name, *The Community Engaged Research Institute* (CERI). The institute has been operating under this name since the summer, with “name pending final approval” noted on its materials. Delahanty emphasized that the institute has continued its work uninterrupted during this transition.

Dean Shadduck made a motion to approve, and Professor Piontkivska seconded the motion.

With no questions or comments, the item passed with one abstention.

IV. Program Proposals

A. Action Items

Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship

Department of Finance

1. Financial Management - Graduate Certificate—Suspend admission (spring 2026); and inactivate certificate (fall 2026)

[VIEW THE DISCUSSION](#)

Chair Dennis explained that the department is in process of suspending and later closing the program.

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

With no questions or comments, the item passed with one abstention.

Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics

2. Business Analytics - Graduate Certificate—Inactivate certificate (*fall 2026*)

[VIEW THE DISCUSSION](#)

Secretary Ord stated that Chair Benitez was unable to make the meeting but shared the reason for inactivation was because the average number of graduate students was low. Therefore, an inactivation was suggested.

Professor Piontkivska made a motion to approve, and Dean Shadduck seconded the motion.

Professor Jewell noted that both the college and the curriculum committee voted against the recommendation regarding the graduate certificate program. He explained that the program does not require any new courses, as all courses within the certificate are already being offered. While student enrollment in the program is currently low, he emphasized that there are no additional costs associated with it. Professor Jewell suggested that this decision appears to go against the position of the college and the curriculum committee.

Dean Spake responded that the certificate was included on the list due to its low enrollment, as identified by the Provost's Office. While acknowledging that the courses within the certificate are also used in other programs and would not be eliminated, she clarified that only the certificate itself would be discontinued. She noted, however, that she was not present at the curriculum committee meeting when the decision was made.

Professor Piontkivska asked about the committee's reasoning for retaining the certificate given its continued decline in enrollment if students do not appear to be attracted to the program. She expressed concern that it provides little value, even if it does not add any additional cost.

Professor Jewell explained that the certificate could serve as an option for students who are not interested in pursuing the full business analytics master's program but may still wish to earn a credential. While enrollment has been limited so far, he noted that future recruitment could increase interest. Since the certificate requires no additional resources, he suggested there is no harm in retaining it for students who may benefit from having the certificate on their résumé without committing to the full degree program.

Professor Piontkivska raised concerns that offering the certificate might detract from enrollment in other degree programs, as some students could opt for the shorter route instead of pursuing a full degree. She questioned whether the certificate would provide meaningful career advancement and noted that with only one or two students enrolled, it is unclear if there will be sufficient future demand. Professor Piontkivska suggested that market studies or similar analysis might be needed to determine potential interest.

Professor Jewell acknowledged uncertainty about whether market studies had been conducted but explained that the committee's reasoning for opposing the recommendation was that even a small number of students in the certificate program would otherwise go outside the college.

Retaining the certificate provides an opportunity to bring additional students into existing courses, thereby increasing class enrollment without requiring new resources.

With no further comments or questions, the item was voted down with 11 yeas, 13 nays and two abstentions.

With no further questions or comments, Chair Dauterich concluded the meeting at 4:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa N. Ord

Christa N. Ord
Operations and Special Projects Coordinator, Curriculum Services
Office of the Provost