



KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY
Educational Policies Council

Meeting Minutes
Monday, 27 January 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 Alan A. Brandyberry, Karen Gracy, Robert D. Jewell, Richard L. Mangrum, Steven N. Rugare, Athena Salaba, J K. Vick; Associate Professors Brian R. Barber, Michael R. Fisch, Samuel Kim, Bethany G. Lanese, Abe G. Osbourne, JD Ponder, Pamela L. Stephenson, Jonathan F. Swoboda; Assistant Professors Tinyuan Guan, Christopher W. Totten, Yuening Zhang; Senior Lecturer Tracy A. Laux; Associate Lecturer Shelley K. Marshall; Lecturer Olivia B. Krise

Faculty not present: Associate Professors Michael J. Ensley

Guests: Sonia Alemagno, Mandy Anderson, Loubna Bilali, Christina Bloebaum, Thomas Brewer, Christina Burnworth, Jessie Carduner, Carolyn Carvalho, Alicia Crowe, Chris Dorsten, Susan Emens, Patrick Gallagher, Shawn Golden, James Hannon, Amirhossein Jabbari, Ebone Jones, Tiffany Kiphart, Kelsen LaBerge, Wei Li, Mitchell McKenney, Emily Metzgar, Stephen Mitchell, Hyunjoo Noh, Liz Piatt, Christa Porter, Matthew Rollyson, Hollie Simpson, Alison Smith, Kathy Spicer, Kimberly Steele-Marks, Teresa Villa-Ignacio, Deirdre Warren, Sharon Wohl, Cathy Zingrone, Melissa Zullo

Chair Dauterich called the meeting to order at 3:20p.m., on Monday, 27 January 2025, via Microsoft Teams.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. Meeting on 16 December 2024

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

With no comments or corrections, the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Program Proposals Review

A. Action Items

College of Aeronautics and Engineering

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1. Applied Engineering – B.S.—Revise major name to Industrial Engineering Technology; revise description, course requirements, roadmap (*fall 2025*)

Associate Lecturer Marshall made a motion to approve, and Professor Mangrum seconded.

Professor LaBerge stated that the current program is set up with two separate concentrations. The program has approximately 40 students across the two concentrations without a no concentration option. The enrollment has been low for the last few years with minimal flexibility. In its current form, the college cannot seek ABET accreditation. This program is currently accredited by ATMAE which is a different accrediting body. The college has a desire to get it ABET accredited for several reasons, which is part of the reason the college is proposing the revisions. The college is proposing to change the name to “Industrial Engineering Technology.” The “Applied Engineering” in the current title causes a lot of confusion with students and employers. People do not understand what it is and the college feels that shifting to the “Industrial Engineering Technology” name will identify the program differently. It may also attract more students into the program. There are some curriculum changes that are similar to the Technology Management concentration with some minor changes. All concentrations are going to be removed to increase flexibility. There are more electives and easier to transfer for students coming in from other programs or community colleges. In addition to this, the proposed changes to the curriculum are such that it provides a pathway to get ABET accreditation under the “Industrial Engineering Technology” program criteria. The other reasons for making these changes are the need in Northeast Ohio and beyond, and it ties in with current DoD funded Digital Engineering Design Center in the college right now. Employment projections show the new name very much highlighted.

Secretary Tillett said the name of the program had been “Industrial Technology” at one time and was changed to “Applied Engineering.” The rationale was what the industry was calling itself and what most students would recognize. From the employment data, which appears to have changed. She asked for confirmation if that was the case.

Dean Bloebaum replied that “Applied Engineering” used to be a thing, but it is not anymore. It is not recognizable. She clarified that the new program name will include the word “engineering” as the graduates will be engineers.

Secretary Tillett asked to confirm that the program would be called “Industrial Engineering Technology.”

Dean Bloebaum said yes and that it is an important step to move towards “Industrial Engineering” in the future.

Dean Shadduck offered a letter of support, if needed, from CATS.

Associate Dean Wohl said that some of the courses in the program looked like they could cross over with some of the construction management courses and suggested those courses in case of low enrollment in the CAE courses.

With no further questions or comments, the item passed.

**College of Communication and Information
School of Media and Journalism**

2. Media and Journalism – M.A.—Inactivate major; admission has been suspended since spring 2024 (*fall 2025*)

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Associate Professor Fisch made a motion to approve, and Associate Lecturer Marshall seconded.

Associate Professor McKenney said that the proposal is to inactivate the M.A. in Media and Journalism. This was the on-ground program that had a component with the Journalism Education program. This is the remaining M.A. which was suspended last spring. The program is down the last students and ready to submit for inactivation. The on-ground program was struggling to get enough enrollment to have classes. The school put the energy into making the Journalism Education (online program) the focus in the M.A. world.

With no questions or comments the item passed.

College of Public Health

3. Health Policy and Management – M.P.H.—Establish major, currently a concentration in the Public Health major (*fall 2025 pending final approvals*)

4. Public Health – M.P.H.—Establish major, currently a concentration in the Public Health major (*fall 2025 pending final approvals*)

5. Social and Behavioral Sciences – M.P.H.— Establish major, currently a concentration in the Public Health major (*fall 2025 pending final approvals*)

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Chair Dauterich asked if Professor Brewer would like to discuss and vote on the items as a slate.

Professor Brewer said yes since they are all interrelated.

Dean Shadduck made a motion to approve the items as a slate, and Associate Lecturer seconded the motion.

Professor Brewer stated that the existing M.P.H. degree is a Master's of Public Health in Public Health. The Biostatistics and Epidemiology concentrations were elevated to standalone programs last year. The college is seeking to do the same with the Health and Policy Management and Social and Behavioral Sciences concentrations. Behavioral Sciences, due to the new Department of Homeland Security designations, is able to go up for STEM designation. Health Policy Management would be the only concentration in the degree. The degree does not have additional requirements for students not declaring a concentration. Students would have to choose a concentration, and you cannot have just one concentration. That is the impetus for this action. The college is proposing to create a Master's of Public Health in Health Policy and Management. That would compliment the existing and proposed degrees. It is the elevation of the concentration to a program with no new courses, requirements, faculty or costs. There is some confusion with students, faculty and some employers regarding the degree name. Students will say they have an M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management. It is really an M.P.H. in Public Health. Students have reported having to explain to potential employers what it really is. Employers, who are looking for someone in health policy and management, are more likely to lean towards a CV that says M.P.H. in Health Policy and Management rather than a degree in Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy and Management. The college feels this will

be better for students and make them more marketable. The Social and Behavioral Sciences will be elevated to a degree. It will also have no new courses, requirements, faculty or costs. Elevating the concentration to a degree will provide clarity, make it more marketable and allows for STEM designation. Another benefit of that is the OPT designation or Optional Practical Training. International students who come and get the degree will be able to have two additional years in the United States after graduating from the degree which makes it more attractive to international students. Assuming that the two new degrees are accepted, the college seeks to inactivate the generic M.P.H. in Public Health.

Senior Lecturer Lauz asked how many degrees in each concentration are awarded each year.

Professor Brewer said approximately 40 to 50. Probably a little less in Social and Behavioral Sciences. Health Policy and Management is the largest concentration. They both have on-ground and fully online options.

With no further comments or questions, the item passed unanimously.

College of the Arts

School of Music

6. Conducting – M.M.—Inactivate major; program will become a concentration in the Performance major (*fall 2025*)

7. Music Composition – M.A.— Inactivate major; program will become a concentration in the Performance major (*fall 2025*)

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Chair Dauterich asked if Associate Professor Noh would like to address the items as a slate.

Professor Noh said yes.

Associate Professor Swoboda made a motion to approve, and Associate Lecturer Marshall seconded the motion.

Professor Noh explained that the school is inactivating these programs as a standalone master's programs. At the same time, the school will be replacing the programs with Conducting and Composition concentrations under the existing Master's of Music Performance. The Conducting and Composition programs have historically low enrollment. Although they are absolutely essential to the school, given the current fiscal climate, faculty have realized that it is increasingly difficult to offer these low enrolled courses that are degree requirements. Restructuring these programs as concentrations significantly lowers the number of low enrolled classes. If not all, the school can inactivate the low enrolled classes. It will also help to streamline graduation at the graduate level and course rotations and maximize budgetary efficiency. The new concentrations are fully compliant. The faculty went through the accreditation handbook and they meet all the requirements, guidelines and standards. Students in these programs will continue to receive high standard training and coursework with hands-on experience to become beginning level professionals.

Senior Lecturer Laux asked how many degrees are granted each year for the proposed concentrations (currently degrees)?

Associate Professor Noh said approximately under 10.

Senior Lecturer Laux explained that part of senate bill one includes the automatic elimination of programs that only have so many degrees awarded over a period of a year. It appears that the school is addressing that by combining them into one degree and increasing the number of graduates.

Associate Professor Noh replied that was the school's intention.

With no further questions, the motion passed unanimously as a slate.

B. Discussion Items

Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship Department of Accounting

1. Accounting, Business Technology and Analytics – M.S.—Initial proposal to establish new major (full proposal to come to EPC for a vote at a later date)

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Chairperson Li explained that this proposal is driven by industry need. The resources are combined into a multi-disciplinary program with accounting, information systems and data analytics. The job market for accounting and data analytics is very high. Currently, the Master of Science in Accounting is a traditional M.S.A. program. This traditional program does not require students to have very high data technology skills, which is needed in the accounting industry now. That is the reason that the Department of Information Systems and Business Analytics has developed a new program. The M.S.A. has good enrollment. There are currently 43 students and the M.S.B.A. has 150 students. The department is incorporating the strings of two strong programs together to build the new one to meet industry needs. There are no new courses. The program is intended to be hybrid. That will attract international students. Overall, the program combines two to three areas together with two departments sharing resources and meeting industry needs.

Secretary Tillet asked about the challenge of ensuring international students have enough in person classes each semester since most of the courses are offered online.

Chairperson Li explained that they have been working with the International Admissions office to get their confirmation that the program design will show the detailed curriculum each semester. They confirmed that it will be okay for international students.

Dean Shadduck explained that the word “technology,” at least at the undergraduate level, is often used for specific meaning in some areas. She asked if it is the right word to be using at the master's level.

Chairperson Li said that the accounting department works closely with the Accounting Technology faculty including some of the faculty teach for them as well. So they understand the program very well. She explained that “technology” is emphasized is because they will discuss AI (artificial intelligence) which is not at the associate level. The department has asked the current students to take AI courses, but they do not have the skills to do that. That is why the department is using “technology,” because the program will include advanced-level, AI machine learning which is not related to the Accounting Technology degree at all.

College of Arts and Sciences**Department of Modern and Classical Studies**

2. Translation – M.A.—Establish two concentrations: Language and Technology and Multilingual Communication; inactive all current concentrations (German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish); revise description, outcomes, admission requirements, course requirements (*fall 2025*)

[VIEW THE DISCUSSION](#)

Associate Professor Bilali explained that the program has existed since 1988 and received a grant in 2018 to go 100% online. The M.A. is now running in two modalities. Most graduates venture out after graduation with work in different capacities, mostly in business or technology. In hope of increasing enrollment and keeping the program relevant and competitive, the department thought to leverage the many programs that currently exist. The department sought collaborations with five programs. One concentration would keep focus on language only. The other concentrations would involve collaboration with international marketing, global security, criminology, criminal justice and UX design. Instead of only having a concentration of languages, there would also be a multidisciplinary concentration. Certain core courses are moving to electives and freeing up space for the multidisciplinary concentration.

Associate Professor Carduner clarified that there are two concentrations with multiple specializations.

Associate Professor Villa-Ignacio added that an aspect of the Technology and Multilingual Communication concentration is that the concentration is open to students in any area and in any language. Not just the six that are covered. That will open up enrollment. There was low enrollment in some of the language practice courses. The basic practice course that students take their first semester and a literary and cultural translation course that they take in the third semester. They all get separated into the six languages, which lead to smaller course enrollment. Now, the department is bringing all of the students together and they will still be able to work in their different languages. The curriculum is being revised so they will all be able to be in the same course with an instructor.

Secretary Tillett asked for clarification on which concentration Associate Professor Villa-Ignacio was discussing.

Associate Professor Villa-Ignacio said she was referencing the Technology and Multilingual Communication concentration.

Secretary Tillett stated that the specializations within the concentration seem more like separate programs. She expressed concern that having this all-in-one concentration at the point of admission and through their career at Kent State, the department may have a hard time figuring out which of these specializations really resonate with students. At the point of admission, they are going to declare the same concentration. The department is going to have to dig deep or ask which specialization the student is interested in. She said, through email, the department has said they want to see where interest lies before they create the concentrations. However, she asked why not make the concentrations now.

Associate Professor Villa-Ignacio explained that there is some hesitancy committing to making the specializations concentrations. On the proposal, there is a multidisciplinary approaches

specialization. If there are students who want to mix and match from all of these different technology courses and multilingual communication courses, they can. There are students already doing dual degrees which compare to the specializations. This way, they can already have it laid out for them and with some flexibility.

Chair Gallagher explained that he appreciated Secretary Tillett reviewing their proposal from the perspective of someone outside of the department. He said with the current environment, they were nervous about creating five different concentrations. The department was worried about proliferating concentrations, especially since they are at the beginning of a collaborative M.A. The courses that are being used are already existing. Every student that comes into the program is automatically assigned a faculty advisor. The questions that are being asked are answered between the student and the faculty advisor. The department is not opposed to creating concentrations, but they are also not opposed to students talking with their faculty advisor and picking out the courses that exist among the different specialties.

Secretary Tillett asked if the students will be locked into specializations or if they are suggested specialization courses.

Associate Professor Villa-Ignacio explained that they are suggestions.

Associate Professor Carduner added that it is the idea to help students focus if they want to be able to claim some sort of disciplinary specialization. However, it is flexible. Additionally, since the courses are offered in other departments and the courses may be on rotation, flexibility allows for other options.

Secretary Tillett suggested adding verbiage that includes that the specializations are recommended.

Chair Gallagher asked what the potential next steps are to move the proposal forward.

Chair Dauterich explained that this is a discussion item and would not be voted upon.

Secretary Tillett added that the item is discussion and does not need a vote unless someone elevates it to an action item. At the end of the meeting, they are approved.

With no further questions, comments or concerns about items on the agenda, Chair Dauterich concluded the meeting at 4:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa N. Ord

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