

MEMORANDUM

To: University Senate
From: Sue Sutherland, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
Subject: Proposal to Re-establish a Department of Aviation, College of Engineering
Date: March 24, 2026

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO RE-ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF AVIAITION, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- Whereas in 2012, based on faculty attrition and administrative priorities, the Department of Aviation, College of Engineering was abolished and replaced by the Center for Aviation Studies, but since then there has been a resurgence in enrollment and research expenditures, but without TIU status it cannot hire tenure track or practice faculty to address opportunities for strategic growth; and
- Whereas the College Dean has invested by hiring a new Director, whose TIU is the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, has approved the Director’s Strategic Plan, and has hired a new Director for The Ohio State University Airport, a new chapter for Ohio State Aviation can begin; and
- Whereas the Department will manage, maintain, and deliver all aviation coursework across aviation programs in three colleges whose enrollments now total 450 students, and will explore development of an aviation graduate certificate and possible graduate program; and
- Whereas The Center currently has 5 Ph.D. level faculty or staff who teach and conduct research and 6 full-time lecturers, with a College-supported plan to grow the faculty to at least 10 regular faculty; and
- Whereas there are expanding research funding opportunities and an increase in demand for pilots, air traffic controllers and other aviation careers (operations, research, logistics); and
- Whereas the proposal has the support of College Dean and the faculty of the College of Engineering; and
- Whereas the proposal was reviewed by a Subcommittee and then approved by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on February 18, 2026.

Now therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to re-establish a Department of Aviation, College of Engineering, and respectfully submit the proposal to the Board of Trustees for action.