Minutes of the April 14, 2017 FCSM College Council Meeting.

The FCSM College Council met in Smith Hall, Room 306 at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Michael McGuire, Chairperson, presiding.

Member Attendees: FCSM: David Vanko; Vonnie Shields; Biological Sciences: Harald Beck, Pam Healey; Chemistry: Shannon Stitzel, Ellen Hondrogiannis; Computer and Information Sciences: Michael McGuire; Josh Dehlinger; Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences: Jeff Simpson, Cody Sandifer (for Parviz Ghavamian); Mathematics: Elizabeth Goode, Student Representatives: Jessica Henley (Undergraduate Representative) Nusrat Sharmin (Graduate Representative)

Absentees: (All notified in advance.) Sergiy Borodachov, Parviz Ghavamian, Shuhua Ma, Xiaoyin Wang.

Chairperson Michael McGuire called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes of the March 10, 2017 meeting were approved with one abstention.

2. Announcements from the Dean
   2.1. FCSM Honors Convocation, Sunday, April 23, 1:00-3:00 pm; UU-Chesapeake Rooms
   2.2. BTU Showcase, Monday, April 24, 11:30 am-2:00 pm; SECU Arena
   2.3. Port Deposit Ribbon-cutting Event, Wednesday, May 3, 2:00 pm
   2.4. Dean’s Recognition Awards Banquet, Friday, May 5 – Chris Young ’80, Computer Science; President, ProObject
   2.5. FCSM Commencement, Thursday, May 25, 10:00 am
   2.6. New calls for Fisher Chair applications (2) and for Authentic Undergraduate Research Projects

2. Remarks from the Dean
   2.1. Congratulations to all of our colleagues who were tenured (9) or promoted to Professor (9) this year; particularly Senators McGuire, Ghavamian, and Beck.
   2.2. Thanks to the College PTRM Committee (Ellen Hondrogiannis, Chair) for their hard work.
   2.3. FCSM Top Three Focus areas for 2017-2019
      2.3.1. Student Success
      2.3.2. Assessment
      2.3.3. Diversity and Inclusion
   2.4. Development – Big Ideas
      2.4.1. If we got a $20M gift, how would we use it?
      2.4.2. How can we transform the university and the world?
      2.4.3. How can we make the university unique?
      2.4.4. Where are we good, but could become better?
      2.4.5. Where are we emerging as a leader?

3. Remarks from the Chairperson
   3.1. Updates from University Senate
      3.1.1. Shared Governance Task Force recommended to create a University Steering Committee and make the University Senate into a Faculty Senate. The University Steering Committee would then sit above the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, and Towson University Staff Council.
      3.1.2. Burdick Hall Renovation - There is a need to charge a fee to raise funds needed to maintain the new facility. There was debate surrounding a proposal to charge faculty $32/month to use the new facility.
3.2. Proposal to have the University Senate Liaison present at College Council meeting once per year or once per semester.

3.3. FCSC College Council Officers for AY 2017/2018 will be elected during the May meeting.

3.4. A number of members will be rotating off of the College Council after this semester:

3.5. Reminder that new members and old members should attend the May meeting.

4. Updates from FCSC Departments

Members from each FCSC department updated the Council on departmental news and activities.

4.1. Biology: welcomes a new admin assistant and is starting two new searches for lecturers.

4.2. Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences: almost finished its 7-year program review. One researcher was unable to run experiments since OTS was prohibiting running of software needed for experiments. Alternative program is currently working.

4.3. Computer & Information Sciences: completed two searches and is currently discussing where to host big data server for new data sciences track in the MS in Computer Science Program.

4.4. Mathematics: undergraduate research conference was a success. They are working hard to get core courses cost down.

4.5. Chemistry: has a search for a lecture position and is looking at different online resources for General Chemistry. Richard Preisler is on medical leave.

5. Old Business

5.1. Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry grants. Out of the 40K budget only 15K is for student research and each college receives 2K. Remaining 3K for high impact projects. Raj Kolagani is our representative on the college committee. We are not likely to receive any of the remaining money. The remaining budget supports the Student Research & Creative Inquiry Forum and CAA conference. Each faculty in FCSC received up to $360.00. One faculty member with 5 students therefore received $72.00/student which left the research significantly underfunded. The Dean noted that of the 165K budgeted from the FY17 General Endowment, 62.7 remained. The Dean and Howard Kaplon suggested that, in the future, it would be useful to find a way to use some of the endowment money to backfill undergraduate research.

5.2. PAGS and COSC submitted comments to College PTRM Document revisions. Cody Sandifer noted the purpose was to get feedback to the ART committee (since the document is currently under review) and eventually we will have to revise our document college.

6. New Business

6.1. Chair asked for Reagents’ Award nominees to be brought to table next meeting. College Council reps should ask if individuals want to be nominated. While the College Council should agree on one nominee per category this should not exclude anyone from self-nominating or any group from nominating someone.

6.2. A question arose over Maggie Reitz’s interpretation of the ART document in reference to required teaching peer evaluations (Pp. 3-13). The Dean noted that the College document can require more than the ART document. Maggie feels two peer evaluations should be done during two different classes. Biology questioned her interpretation. We can ensure it is more explicitly stated in ART document.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Ellen Hondrogiannis
Associate Professor, Chemistry