

To: FCSM Electorate

Members of the FCSM College Council:

Acting Dean: David Vanko; **Biological Sciences:** Sarah Haines, Vonnie Shields; **Chemistry:** David Larkin, Ryan Sours; **Computer Science:** Yuanqiong (Kathy) Wang, Harry Zhou; **Mathematics:** Linda Cooper (Sabbatical replacement for Honi Bamberger Fall 2008), Gail Kaplan; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Rommel Miranda (recording secretary for Fall 2008) (replacing Rajeswari Kolagani for Fall 2008), Phuoc Ha; **At Large:** Brian Fath (Biological Sciences), Angel Kumchev (Mathematics); **Students:** Michael Davis (Undergraduate Student), Cory Lavoie (Graduate Student)

FCSM Department Chairs

FCSM Secretaries – Please post one copy

Member-at-Large of the University Senate: Jay Zimmerman, Mathematics

MINUTES OF THE FCSM COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2008

The FCSM College Council met at 7800 York Road, Room 457, at 1:30 p.m. on October 10, 2008; Vonnie Shields, Chairperson presiding.

Attendance: David Vanko, Howard Kaplon, David Larkin, Ryan Sours, Kathy Wang, Linda Cooper, Gail Kaplan, Rommel Miranda, Phuoc Ha, Brian Fath, Angel Kumchev, Michael Davis, Cory Lavoie

Absent: Brian Fath (Council Chair notified in advance)

1. The minutes from the September 12, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Announcements from Acting Dean Vanko

a. Hiring Freeze

Dave Vanko informed College Council about the hiring freeze and expressed his opinion that all of our current FCSM position searches should be considered critical (Dean, Faculty, Part-time Faculty, Lecturers, and Supporting Grant Contracts). A list citing all critical positions in FCSM has been sent to the president for his approval to allow us to continue the faculty search process.

b. Budget Cuts

The dean informed college council that the University System of Maryland sustained a \$10,000,000 operating budget cut and that \$20,000,000 of the USM fund balance would be returned to the state. TU's portion of these cuts is about \$850,000 of operating funds and \$1,750,000 of fund balance funds. TU is currently okay because the Vice-President of Finance has maintained a contingency of \$1,000,000. However, if there are more cuts in January, a 6-day furlough maybe possible. Despite budget cuts, TU is still considered a growth institution and may have an additional 82 new faculty positions in the future.

3. Announcements from Council Chairperson

Vonnie Shields informed College Council that there are a few issues that need to be resolved before voting procedures can become electronic. Sungchul Hong is working to resolve the issues.

4. Announcements from Council Vice Chairperson

Ryan Sours informed College Council that Derek Rodgers would be the student representative on the College Curriculum Committee.

5. Presentations

a. Cindy Ghent addressed College Council regarding STEM Leaders. STEM Leaders is comprised of students in leadership roles from various student groups in FCSM. This is a new group that started late last semester (Spring 2008) and is designed to support student organizations, to promote greater connection among FCSM clubs, and to help plan events to increase student involvement within their college. The group was formed at the suggestion of Teri Hall (Campus Life), Trevor Yuhas (New Student Program) and with input from Jim Saunders. There is a tentative plan to connect all the college leadership groups across the campus.

b. Kristin Brueckner (Women in Science Faculty STEM Liason/MB3 Event Coordinator) addressed College Council regarding her involvement with STEM Leaders. She informed College Council about the upcoming MB3 Science and Technology Day in early November and to contact her if you know of any speakers or clubs that would like to participate in the event. She also explained how the MB3 Club helps the Hackerman Academy's Saturday Morning Science Series while raising funds for the MB3 Club. She stressed that it was clubs that got her involved on campus.

Discussion

a. Strategic Plan

Sarah Haines made a motion to accept the strategic plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Larkin wanted to further discuss the meaning or relevance of some of the goals specifically under Subgoal 1A and Subgoal 1C.

College Council offered suggested revisions to the specific wording of the goals.

Rommel Miranda made a motion to accept the strategic plan with the revisions suggested by College Council. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Mission Statement

Dave Vanko passed out a sheet which contained the current mission statement and the proposed edited mission statement. He asked College Council to review the document and to develop a one-sentence mission statement by the next College Council meeting in November.

c. New Merit Distribution System

College Council discussed the New College-Based Merit Distribution Model options offered by the Provost. College Council decided to continue to review the options listed and to possibly propose an alternate model to the dean.

d. Graduate Stipend and Travel Support

Ryan Sours informed College Council of his conversation with Ellen Libao (Director of Budget and Research Finance Office) regarding tuition waivers and \$8,000 student stipends for living allowance. Ellen Libao said that tuition waivers and stipends are dependent on the number of hours worked and TU credits taken, and that TU has to follow this pay scale. College Council decided that they need to determine whether TU's stipends are competitive with other colleges, and to investigate other ways to increase the \$8,000 stipend for students.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rommel Miranda
Recording Secretary, Fall 2008
FCSM College Council