

**To: FCSM Electorate**

Members of the FCSM College Council:

**Acting Dean:** David Vanko; **Biological Sciences:** Sarah Haines, Vonnie Shields; **Chemistry:** David Larkin, Lev Ryzhkov; **Computer Science:** Yuanqiong (Kathy) Wang, Harry Zhou; **Mathematics:** Honi Bamberger, Gail Kaplan; **Physics, Astronomy, Geosciences:** Rommel Miranda, Phuoc Ha; **At Large:** Brian Fath (Biological Sciences), Angel Kumchev (Mathematics); **Students:** Derek Morgan (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**

March 13, 2009

The FCSM College Council met in 7800 York Road, room 459 at 1:30 p.m.; Vonnie Shields, Chairperson presiding.

**Attendance:** David Vanko, Howard Kaplon, Sarah Haines, Vonnie Shields, David Larkin, Lev Ryzhkov, Yuanqiong (Kathy) Wang, Honi Bamberger, Gail Kaplan, Angel Kumchev, Brian Fath, Rommel Miranda, Derek Morgan

**Absent:** Harry Zhou, Cory Lavoie (Council Chair notified in advance)

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.
2. Derek Morgan, the new undergraduate student on the College Council was introduced.
3. The minutes of the February 13, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Announcements from Acting Dean, David Vanko
  - a. The College Council congratulates Provost Jim Clements on being named President of West Virginia University.
  - b. The School of Emerging Technologies (SET) – The concept overview was discussed at the March Senate meeting, and several encouraging comments were heard.
  - c. General Education Review Committee – deliberation continues.
  - d. Towson University Environmental and Natural Science Field Station – plans are progressing.
  - e. Faculty hiring – interviews are nearly over; out of 10 searches, 5 are finished (**PAGs:** elementary science education, secondary science education, and theoretical physics; **Mathematics:** actuarial science and risk management; **Biology:** plant biology) and 5 are still in process (**Computer and Information Sciences:** information technology; **Chemistry:** secondary science education, analytical, and forensic science; **Biology:** biotechnology). The next three new PINs have not yet been released.
  - f. Faculty Development Committee – expect to receive a survey soon to provide information to the committee.
  - g. Reflective process – FCSM had the best turnout of all colleges.

h. College Updates

1. Enrollment growth – next year is unclear. Expect larger sophomore and junior classes.
2. Space – CGIS to move in April; science building/renovations are still in the state 5-year plan.
3. STEM
  - i. Upcoming USM VIP K-16 STEM Symposium (April 21 and 22); Uri Treisman is one of the speakers invited to discuss K-16 initiatives
  - ii. USM challenge to triple STEM teachers
  - iii. Federal appropriation – Baltimore Excellence in STEM Teaching (BEST) - An allocation of \$1,000,000 was included in the NASA budget to fund a joint project with Coppin State and UMBI to promote STEM teacher quality.
  - iv. STEM one-time funds: Outreach – planetarium, telescope, outreach vehicle (\$200,000); STEM student experience - \$275,000; STEM research – \$75,000; STEM teachers – \$50,000
4. Grants - \$5,000,000 requested since beginning of October
5. Gifts – a new \$160,000 gift from the Fisher Foundation

i. Upcoming events

1. FCSM Honors Convocation is scheduled for Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. All are encouraged to attend. This event is very meaningful for our students and their supporters.
2. Commencement ceremonies for the FCSM will be Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m.

5. Announcements by FCSM Council Chair, Vonnie Shields

Since the next FCSM College Council Meeting was scheduled for Good Friday, April 10, 2009, the FCSM will meet, instead, on Friday, April 17, 2009, in Smith Hall, room 306.

6. Discussion Items

- a. FCSM Faculty computing needs were summarized by Lev Ryzhkov and Sam Houston, and they provided the College Council with a document specifying these needs. The document addresses the FCSM's need to "enrich student learning" and continue with "research" by having the OTS better understand the needs of the college and have accountability measure in place for evaluating how successful OTS is being with the FCSM faculty. As a first step, this document will be shared with the Dean's Council to determine whether similar needs are being felt by other colleges. More discussions will take place at the April FCSM College Council meeting.
- b. Representatives from the College Council shared their department's sentiments regarding the Merit Models under discussion. Since two departments had been unable to poll its faculty a final decision about the model that best suits the FCSM faculty will be made at the April FCSM College Council meeting.

7. Motion to adjourn was made by Honi Bamberger. This was seconded by Rommel Miranda. The meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Honi J. Bamberger  
FCSM College Council Recording Secretary