

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

November 14, 2008

The FCSM College Council met in the Dean's Conference Room, Smith Hall, Room 306, at 1:00 p.m. on November 14, 2008; Vonnie Shields, Chairperson presiding.

Attendance: Howard Kaplon, Vonnie Shields, David Larkin, Kathy Wang, Harry Zhou, Linda Cooper, Gail Kaplan, Rommel Miranda, Phuoc Ha, Brian Fath, Angel Kumchev, Michael Davis

Absent: David Vanko, Sarah Haines, Ryan Sours, Cory Lavoie (Council Chair notified in advance)

1. Provost Clements met with College Council to get feedback on what is currently going on in the college and to seek advice for how to advance with the dean's position.
2. Presentation
Ms. Liina Ladon, director of the Chemistry Tutor Center, addressed the College Council regarding science tutoring in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. The tutoring center is located in SM538 with a satellite center for BIOL 190 in SM307. The center provides walk-in tutoring for astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology and physics, and assists over 400 students per semester on average. Student tutors go through certification training through the Academic Achievement Center. Usage of the center is monitored via TutorTrac. The pay for a student tutor ranges from \$7.00 to 10.00, depending on the level of certification. The center's budget has not been increased for several years. Students have the option of tutoring for credit. Students who choose this option will earn 1 credit (CHEM391) for tutoring 3 hours/week during the semester and completing a written project. The trimester may affect the tutoring center with increased enrollments and a static budget. Approximately 90% of students that go to the center request tutoring for chemistry, physics, astronomy and geosciences courses, while 10% request tutoring for biology courses. The TOPS program has helped to alleviate tutoring demands.
3. The minutes of the October 10, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Announcements from the Dean as given by Acting Associate Dean Kaplon
 - a. School of Emerging Technologies
Dean Vanko requests College Council to help identify either internally, or externally, a passionate Full-Time Director for this new program. Towson 2010 support has been requested for this position.
 - b. Plan for the use of \$600,000 in one-time STEM Funds
Dean Vanko requests College Council to provide comments regarding the proposed spending plan.
 - c. TU Environmental and Natural Science Field Station at Camp Running Bear
Dean Vanko requests College Council to provide comments regarding the proposed field station.
 - d. B.S. Degree in Construction Management and Technology
Dean Vanko announced that TU submitted a letter of intent to the Maryland Higher Education Commission regarding this proposed degree.
 - e. Enrollment Growth
Dean Vanko announced that the college needs to address enrollment growth. We are currently dealing with space issues, the trimester pilot, and 10 faculty searches. A walk-through of YR 7800 was conducted. Plans need to be made regarding how to utilize the space in YR 7800.
5. Announcements from Council Chairperson
 - a. The December meeting of the College Council will be held in Smith Hall 306.
 - b. Dr. Deborah Shaller, Director of the Writing Lab, will be addressing the College Council in December regarding the writing and statistics lab.
6. Discussion
 - a. Mission Statement
The College Council reviewed and edited the college's current mission statement. College Council discussed, developed and proposed a one-sentence mission statement/slogan for the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics.
 - b. New Merit Distribution System
The College Council discussed the new college-based merit distribution model options offered by the Provost, and a fourth option proposed by Martha Siegel, from the department of mathematics. Jay Zimmerman addressed the College Council regarding the new merit distribution system. The discussion of these models will be continued at the December 2008 meeting of the College Council.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rommel Miranda
Recording Secretary, Fall 2008
FCSM College Council