Minutes of the December 13, 2019 FCSM College Council Meeting

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

**Member Attendees:** **FCSM:** David Vanko, Vonnie Shields; **Biological Sciences:** Mark Bulmer, Angela Cox; **Chemistry** Ana-Maria Soto, Henderika van Huizen; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Joyram Chakraborty; **Mathematics:** Yunwei Cui, Melike Kara; **Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences:** Wendy Nelson, Pamela Lottero-Perdue; **At large:** Kelly Elkins (Chemistry), Elizabeth Goode (Mathematics); **Undergraduate Student:** Marella Schammel

**Absent:** Scott Hilberg, Miracle Davis.

**Guest:** Howard Kaplon (FCSM)

Chairperson Kelly Elkins called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. **Approval of minutes from the November 8, 2019 FCSM College Council meeting**

The minutes of the November 8, 2019 meeting were approved with two abstentions.

2. **Announcements and remarks from the Dean**

2.1. Internal searches for Directors for “Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry” and “Competitive Fellowships and Awards” resulted in the selection of two FCSM faculty: Alexei Kolesnikov from Mathematics and Clare Muhoro from Chemistry, respectively. Congratulations!

2.2. Searches coming to an end: Executive Director for Entrepreneurship; Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; Dean of Fine Arts and Communications; and Vice President for Student Affairs. Next spring: Dean of Liberal Arts.

2.3. FCSM Fall Forum was well attended and well received. Congratulations to all the faculty and staff awardees.

2.4. Regents’ Awards update: James Overduin (teaching), Chris Salice (scholarship), and Josh Dehlinger (mentoring) were selected by the university-level committee to move forward to a full nomination from TU. As a result, they were recognized at a TU awards luncheon, and each received a monetary reward from the President.

2.5. Mary Devadas was recognized with the 2019 Braude Award presented by the local chapter of the American Chemical Society – congratulations to Dr. Devadas!

2.6. Science Complex virtual tours by Whiting-Turner:
   **When:** December 17th
   **Where:** Smith Hall room 326.
   **Times:** There will be two presentations, one from 10:15 – 11:00 a.m. and another from 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon.
   **Who can come:** All Faculty/staff are welcome to come to either/both presentations. Since this room accommodates a large number of people, everyone within the college is invited to come.

2.7. FCSM Commencement (with CLA): December 18th, 10:00 a.m.
2.8. TU January Conference: January 8th beginning with breakfast and ending after lunch. Topic: “Beyond the Grade: Supporting Well-Being in the Classroom”

2.9. January 10th – no College Council meeting

2.10. New grant activity ($6.7M requested YTD, compared to $3.3M on same date FY19) - ↑

($1.45M awarded YTD, compared to $1.04M on same date FY19) - ↑

3. Announcements from the Council Chairperson

3.1. Congratulations to the FCSM Fall Forum awardees.

3.2. The Provost has been invited to our February meeting.

4. Updates from FCSM Departments

4.1. Biological Sciences: Three interviews for a bioinformatics position will occur at the end of January. In the last faculty meeting, we discussed mandatory advising. We also talked about the possibility of hiring a full-time sophomore advisor.

4.2. Chemistry: We finished interviewing the last candidate for the clinical assistant professor position. On the next Tuesday we will discuss the candidates.

4.3. Computer and Information Sciences: We have 5 ongoing searches. The number of students enrolled at undergraduate level is over 2000. At the doctoral level, the enrollment has slightly declined. The Cyber Security Club had an attack and defend contest last weekend.

4.4. Mathematics: Baltimore County has awarded two more cohorts in mathematics education to our graduate program; one in elementary mathematics education and one in secondary mathematics education. It is remarkable to have two cohorts awarded to one university.

4.5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences: The search for the biophysics position is in preparation. We have 6 candidates for the research machinist position. We had a discussion about FCSM awards in terms of gender equality.

5. Strategic Planning: Towson Emerging Themes October 2019, Discussion

5.1. The FCSM Council discussed about Towson Emerging Themes for Campus Discussion and its possible impacts.

6. Trish Westerman, Ph.D., Assistant Provost, Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson University, Presentation and Questions

6.1. FACET not only supports faculty in teaching and learning, but also in scholarship and grant application.

6.2. We have two teaching fellows in pedagogy support. Starting in January, we also will have a research fellow with expertise in research design and grant writing.

6.3. The Fulbright grant event will be held on January 23rd.

6.4. The application for FACET and Service-Learning Fellowships must be submitted and all signatures must be completed by February 10, 2020 at 5 p.m.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yunwei Cui
Recording Secretary