Minutes of the December 15, 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; Biological Sciences: Jacqueline Doyle, Elizabeth O’Hare; Chemistry: Kelly Elkins, Shuhua Ma; Computer and Information Sciences: Michael McGuire; Josh Dehlinger; Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences: Parviz Ghavamian Ghavamian, Jennifer Scott; Mathematics: Yunwei Cui, Sergiy Borodachov; Student Representatives: Dawn Myers (Graduate Student, Mathematics), Claire Glenn (Undergraduate Student, Computer and Information Sciences).

Absentees: (All notified in advance) Ann-Maria Soto (Chemistry), Harald Beck (Biology)

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

1. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes of the November 10th, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously with 2 abstentions.

2. Announcements from the Dean.
   2.1. FCSM Commencement Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m. in SECU Arena. The Distinguished Alumni Speaker will be Dr. Crystal C.J. Neeley (Biology, class of 2006).
   2.2. The January Conference will take place from 8:00 AM – 2:45 PM on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 in the University Union, Third Floor.
   2.3. The next College Council meeting will take place on Friday, February 9, 2018.
   2.4. Happy Holidays.

3. Remarks from the Dean.
   3.1. Remember – FCSM’s Top Three Focus areas:
       Student Success and Assessment
       Research and Scholarship
       Diversity and Inclusion
   3.2. The new TU Vice President of Inclusion & Institutional Equity Leah Cox is gathering college Diversity Action Plans in preparation for a possible rejuvenation of the action plans.
   3.3. Thanks to those who attended the FCSM Fall Forum last week. Tell your colleagues how enjoyable it was! We awarded the first Outstanding Lecturer awards this year, thanks to the College Council.
   3.4. New Science building update:
       3.4.1. Site safety – note the new traffic pattern, instituted to keep pedestrians safe. Vehicles can now only exit campus via Glen Drive. All vehicles must now enter through the Newell Avenue. Installation of an additional warning traffic light on Cross Campus Drive near the pedestrian crossing connecting the Admin building and the 7800 York Road building is under consideration. Another safety measure is putting curb cuts.
       3.4.2. Tree issues – note that each tree removed will be replaced (by MDE regulation); and that the Glen and the Glen Arboretum will eventually serve seamlessly as research and education extensions of the Science Complex. Each year investing $15,000 in Glenn arboretum. The goal is to have an example of every tree species. We have a slice of a 77-year old white oak. Earlier this area was deforested.
3.5. Presidential Priority – Lifelong TU Career Readiness Strategic Plan:

Next year, the Career Center and FCSM will partner to create the first “College-specific Career Community.” The Career Center will assign two staff to work with us – a Career Coach (for 1:1 advising and FCSM resource/workshop development) and an External Outreach Coordinator (to cultivate employers and engage alumni). We were an invited college to start this. We will be putting a group together.

4. Remarks from the Council Chairperson.

4.1. Happy Holidays!

4.2. Reminder: the names of nominees for Regents awards must submitted be by the end of Spring 2018.

4.3. Reminder: we are always open to agenda items from all Departments. Please ask your Department members. Also, please make suggestions for speakers for Spring College Council Meetings.

5. University Senate Update.
The Council discussed the plan for splitting the University Senate into a Faculty Senate, TUSC, and SGA.

6. Updates from FCSM Departments
Members from each FCSM department updated the Council on departmental news and activities.

6.1. Biology: The Research Day was held on December 8. The search for a Clinical Assistant Professor is still underway.

6.2. Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences: Had a new hire. A generous donation to fund undergraduate and graduate scholarships was made. In particular, Rich Burdett has committed to funding student scholarships.

6.3. Computer & Information Sciences: Held a Graduate Research Presentations Day on December 8. Twelve students presented their Master’s projects. Two searches are currently underway: one is for a lecturer position and the other one is to replace a Clinical Assistant Professor. A third search for a tenure-track data science faculty is in the beginning stages.

6.4. Mathematics: Search continues for two positions in Mathematics/Applied Mathematics. As of the time of the meeting there were an impressive number of 351 applications. Two colloquium talks were given at the department since the previous Council meeting.

6.5. Chemistry: Completed the Biochemistry search.

7. Old business.
The council reviewed the rankings for spending of the Fisher Endowment Fund passed by the AY 2015/2016 College Council. The council discussed a list of potential budget items based on their prioritization by the previous council and a number of new items were added to the list. The list will be finalized in the February 9th meeting of the College Council. Then the list will be ranked by each FCSM Department.

8. Additional Business.
No additional business.
9. **Adjournment.**
   The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sergiy Borodachov,
Recording Secretary