

**COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m., February 13, 2026**

**SC 4230**

**1. Attendance**

**A. 2025-2026 Member Attendees Present**

**Biological Sciences:** Daniel Caetano; **Chemistry & Forensic Science:** Nicole Carbonaro (Vice-Chairperson) and Shannon Stitzel (Chairperson); **Computer and Information Sciences:** Weixian Liao and Nam Nguyen; **Mathematics:** Kimberly Corum and Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Parvis Ghavamian and Jia-An Yan; **Teaching Professors and Clinical Faculty:** Miriam Parnes; **STEM Education:** Kristin Frank **Inclusive Student Success:** Siamak Khalilzadeh Salmasi; **Staff:** Kara Berger, Hannah Berry (Co-secretary) and Jennifer Streb (Co-secretary)

**Non-Voting, Ex-Officio Members Present**

**Dean:** Matt Nugent; **Associate Dean for Teaching & Student Success:** Ming Tomayko; **Building Manager:** Josh Wilhide

**B. Visitors**

Howard Kaplon

**2. Approval of the minutes**

A. The minutes from December 12, 2025, FCSM Council meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

**3. Announcements and Remarks from the Office of the Dean**

**A. Announcements from Dean Matt Nugent**

- 1) Reenrollment has increased to 93.5% this Spring semester.
- 2) Continued updates on digital accessibility as we are urged to increase and utilize modules and training from FACET. The goal is to be able to show progress by April. No uploading new documents that do not meet accessibility criteria.
- 3) STEM Unbound Event will be hosted over Spring Break for middle school outreach. To volunteer, please contact Amanda Charles [agcharles@towson.edu](mailto:agcharles@towson.edu).
- 4) Annapolis proposed 1.5% cut budget to USM funding, and FCSM completed a budget cut exercise.
- 5) Applicants and admits are up, as is enrollment. We are making efforts to continue to increase the numbers.

**B. Announcements from Associate Dean Ming Tomayko**

- 1) January Welcome Back was a success! Feel free to share feedback via email.
- 2) Community Time: Take a break and join us for conversation and snacks with colleagues. Here is the full list of community time events for the spring semester (calendar invites will be forthcoming):

Tuesday February 10 from 2-3 p.m. in YR 208  
Tuesday February 17 from 2-3 p.m. in SC 5220  
Tuesday March 10 from 2-3 p.m. in YR 208  
Thursday March 12 from 2-3 p.m. in SC 5220  
Thursday April 23 from 2-3 p.m. in YR 208

- 3) We invite you to attend a session on Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 3–4 p.m. in SC 4230 where Dr. Mary Devadas (Dept. of Chemistry and Forensic Science/Office of Competitive Fellowships and Awards), Dr. Rajeswari Kolagani (Dept. of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences) and E. Mairin Barney (The Writing Center) will share guidance and best practices. Participants will have an opportunity to review sample letters and ask questions.
- 4) Advising workshops are upcoming and held on Fridays. Department Chairs will be sharing details.
- 5) Recruitment/outreach/partnerships updates.
  - a. The university is interested in knowing about any events where you engage with pre-college students. Please add any relevant events to the BTU database so that we can coordinate efforts and identify recruitment opportunities.
  - b. Admitted Students Day now includes student ambassador led tours of Science Complex facilities.
  - c. Transfer advising sessions and modified STEM Success Camp were held in January. Thank you to all who assisted!

C. Announcements from Associate Dean Chris Salice

- 1) The first Leadership Lab took place in early February with a successful attendance of 20 participants.
- 2) Look out for calendar invites to the upcoming events below.
  - a. Running Effective Meetings session on March 11, 2026, in SC4320 at 11 a.m. with Sandy Spitzer
  - b. First installment of Career Academy will be held on February 26, 2026 for pre-tenured faculty seeking large funding opportunity.
  - c. Please join us for Women in Science Day, which will be held on February 28, 2026.
  - d. Workshop on publishing with students March 12, 2026.
  - e. Graduate Student Yield Day will be held in the Science Complex and 7800 York Road Building on March 28, 2026.
  - f. Mid-Atlantic Ecological Society of America Meeting, hosted at TU on March 28, 2026.
  - g. Regional Meeting for Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry will be hosted at TU on April 9, 2026.
  - h. Biotech Day will be held on April 10, 2026. So far there are 7 participating companies. Please reach out to Chris with other potential contacts.

**4. Highlights from FCSM Departments & Constituencies**

A. Chemistry & Forensic Science

- 1) Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Resources & Networking Event was a success!
- 2) Upcoming Seminars (all seminars start at 11 a.m. in SC 4230)
  - a. March 12: Research Seminar - Dr. Sarah Bass (UMBC Chemistry)
  - b. April 2: Fisher Chair Seminar - Dr. Hoa Tran-Ba (CHEMFS)
  - c. April 23: Research Seminar - Dr. Karah Knope (Georgetown Chemistry)
- 3) The Organic Chemistry faculty search is ongoing.
- 4) A Forensic PhD Program is in development by the department.

B. Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences

- 1) Congratulations to Dr. Alan Jackson for receiving the Fisher Chair Award.

### C. Mathematics

- 1) Tenure-track faculty search is ongoing.
- 2) Upcoming Colloquia & Speakers; *All talks will be held from 4 – 5 p.m. in YR 321 with refreshments beginning at 3:30 p.m.*
  - a. Wednesday, February 25 – Michael Orlitzky (TU Alum)
  - b. Wednesday, April 22 – Imtiaz Humayun

## 5. Standing Announcements and Updates

### A. Announcements from the Council Chairperson Shannon Stitzel

- 1) Senate Meeting Recap
  - a. Following extensive and spirited debate, the motion to remove departmental chairs from departmental-level PTR meetings failed, with a vote of 8 in favor, 13 against, 5 abstain.
  - b. Several Consent Agenda items were approved, including updates related to the Jazz Minor and the Certificate in Logical Analysis & Scientific Reasoning.
  - c. The Annual Report of the Student Appeals Committee was approved. The committee emphasized a sharp rise in AI-related integrity violations and encouraged faculty to provide clearer guidance in their syllabi.
  - d. A motion from the Faculty Hearing Committee was postponed.

### B. Update from the Science Complex Building Committee

- 1) New science on display cases will be up soon. Look for Biology's first showcase.
- 2) Discussed scheduling of classes for room spaces in the building, with the goal of finding space for research meetings to be held in labs. Efforts to open more space in huddle rooms, conference spaces, etc.
- 3) There are new photos highlighting FCSM programs posted on the bulletin boards near the compost/garbage/recycling areas.

## 6. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives/Old Business

### A. FCSM College Constitution Update

- 1) We are on track to approve updates, and the updates will go to Senate next on originally set timeline to be effective next year.

### B. Possible New FCSM Committee/ Bylaws

- 1) The College Council will next work on updates to the FCSM Committee/Bylaws and will be collecting feedback from fellow FCSM members.
- 2) Discussion was held regarding need for new committees, including possible of IT committee.
- 3) Concern and discussion of committee reports. Proposal of structured summary report presented by each committee of the first meeting of the new semester.
- 4) Further discussion will resume after representatives gather feedback from respected areas.

### C. Factors for Student Success in FCSM Courses

- 1) A working group met in January and created a survey draft designed to obtain feedback from students. The goal is to be able to report actionable items to support further student success.
- 2) Discussion of survey questions with minor edits made.
- 3) Request of each department to select a lower -level and upper-level course for survey dissemination.
- 4) Suggestion and discussion of how to use the data collected for teachable ideas to share with faculty in impactful manner.

**7. New Business**

- A. Faculty workload guidelines were drafted by Department Chairs and FCSM Deans. Chairs will share with departments to gather feedback.

**8. Adjournment**

- A. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Berry and Jennifer Streb, Co-secretaries