

College Council Meeting Minutes
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:00 p.m., February 9, 2024

Member Attendees: **Dean:** Matthew Nugent; **Associate Dean:** Vonnie Shields; **Biological Sciences:** Daniel Caetano, Elana Ehrlich; **Chemistry:** Hoa Tran-Ba, Nicole Carbonaro (Recording Secretary); **Computer and Information Sciences:** Yeong-Tae Song, Jinie Pak; **Mathematics:** Jing Tian (Vice Chairperson), Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Michelle Casey, Jia-An Yan; **At Large:** Faith Weeks (Biology; Corresponding Secretary), Pam Lottero-Perdue (Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences, Chair); **Students:** Marcus Rose (Graduate), Madison Previti (Undergraduate)

Visitors/guests: Kristin Pinkowski, Mary Stapleton, Howard Kaplon

- 1) Vote to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2023, FCSM Council Meeting: 13 approve; 1 abstain.
- 2) Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent.
 - a) Enrollment
 - i) Enrollment for Spring 2024 exceeded target.
 - ii) Fall applications are up significantly.
 - iii) Admits are up, particularly up in FCSM.
 - iv) First year enrollment is up.
 - v) Transfer enrollment is down likely due to lower Community college enrollments.
 - vi) The number of high school graduates is projected to fall in coming years.
 - vii) In the future Computer Science may need to become a screened major like nursing with their large enrollments.
 - b) FY25 Budget
 - i) Annapolis is currently debating the budget.
 - ii) The University System of Maryland will be having a budget cut.
 - iii) This may not translate to Towson University.
 - c) Sustainability PhD
 - i) Didn't pass MHEC approval.
 - ii) Currently paused.
 - iii) Negotiations are underway for a new plan.
 - iv) Hoping to get in front of MHEC this Spring.
 - d) Monthly brown bag lunches are starting for the whole college. They are the third Wednesday of each month from noon to 1:30 pm. Check email from Amanda Charles.
 - e) There will be a Science Complex Building meeting to discuss building policies and issues with the next date being March 4th 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 - f) Working on launching a pre-tenure club focusing on:
 - i) How to get funded.
 - ii) Work-life balance.
 - iii) How to get students.
- 3) Announcements and remarks from Associate Dean Shields
 - a) Student panelists are needed for open house events.

- i) February 23rd and March 6th – prospective students will be in small groups.
 - (1) Faculty will be there to answer questions from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - (2) Would like to have faculty/current students give tours of labs.
 - ii) March 9th, April 16th, May 4th there will be open houses in the Science Complex Commons at 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Faculty will be at tables, handout brochures, and answer questions.
 - iii) On May 4th, an event will be held in the Union theater looking for panelists at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. Faculty are needed to pass out flyers at tables.
- 4) Announcements from the Council Chairperson
 - a) Hill-Lopes has some upcoming events.
 - i) Dr. Katherine Joyner – Senior Scientist, AstraZeneca Wednesday, February 14th at 1 p.m. via Zoom
 - ii) Dr. Prajvala Kurtakoti – Physical Oceanographer and Postdoctoral Fellow in Oceanographic & Atmospheric Sciences at JHU Wednesday, February 21st at 2 p.m. via Zoom
 - iii) Cynthia Johnson – Cosmetic Chemist and Founder/CEO of Cindy J Cosmetic Labs, LLC Wed. March 6th at 12 p.m. via Zoom
 - iv) Dr. Emileigh Shoemaker ('17) – NASA Postdoctoral Fellow, Goddard Flight Center Wed. March 27th at 3 p.m. in SC 2226. No RSVP is needed.
 - b) Women in Science Forum – Saturday, March 2nd, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 - c) Chairperson Pamela Lottero-Perdue is figuring out what representatives need to be elected to the Council and Standing Committees within departments. She will send this information to the department chairs and will keep current Council representatives in the loop.
 - d) Elections
 - i) Election season is busy this year. Many thanks to the FCSM Elections Committee for their work: Felice Shore (chair), Joyram Chakraborty, and Cody Sandifer.
 - ii) Needs to be done by the end of April.
 - iii) New standing committee – FCSM Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Committee.
 - iv) Staff need to be informed of all the information and procedures of upcoming elections since they have not taken part in these kinds of elections before.
- 5) Highlights from FCSM Departments
 - a) Biological Sciences
 - i) New faculty member. Dr. Kishana Taylor (<https://kishanataylor.com/>) will join our department starting August 2024.
 - ii) The Biology Department is trying to reserve Fridays for science and education collaborative events (such as joint lab meetings, collaborative projects, journal clubs, and seminars).
 - iii) The new teaching schedule allows open time on Fridays for collaboration.
 - b) Chemistry
 - i) Dr. Filipa Simao, a forensic chemist, has joined our department as an assistant professor effective January 8, 2025.
 - ii) Dr. Stanislav (Stan) Presolski, an organic chemist, has joined our department as an assistant professor effective January 8, 2025.

- iii) We discussed Disruptive behaviors in the classroom with guidance from the Student Accountability & Restorative Practices Office at the last faculty meeting. Many faculty had experienced Disruptive behaviors, and it will be worthwhile to continue this conversation.
- c) Computer Information Sciences
 - i) We have four interviews going on for one tenure-track position. Six new tenure track positions were added last year.
 - ii) Monday – Thursday teaching schedule with Fridays free.
 - iii) CS department meeting twice a semester is currently scheduled for the same time as College Council meetings in the spring.
- d) Mathematics
 - i) We have finished the on-campus interviews with three candidates for the position of Assistant Professor in Mathematics Education.
 - ii) Our department meeting has been moved from every Friday to Wednesday, so the faculty members can have Friday free to do research.
- e) Physics Astronomy and Geosciences
 - i) PAGS decided to propose a major in Biophysics at the suggestion of the Provost. Previously a concentration in Biophysics was already included in the current proposal for an Applied Physics major (already in process).
 - ii) Ongoing discussions about the PAGS Seminar series goals given the breadth of the department (physics, astronomy, geosciences, and science education).
 - iii) Program reviews for physics, astronomy, geology, and earth-space science are still progressing. External reviewer visits anticipated in March or early April.
- 6) Standing Agenda Items:
 - a) DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns.
 - i) From Associate Dean Shields: LSAMP program is looking for students to apply for research opportunities. The program runs in Fall, Spring, and Summer. Students don't need research experience, but it is slightly competitive.
 - ii) From Ms. Pinkowski who is part of the Diversity Action Committee: Assessment data from the Recent Climate Survey is being gathered to make recommendations in 2025. Ms. Pinkowski will liaise DEIJ with FCSM. There will be no summit this spring, but activities will pick up in the fall.
 - iii) As part of the elections this year, a representative elected from each department will serve on the DEIJ standing committee.
 - iv) PAGS DEIJ committee is doing a book club on DEIJ issues starting on February 22nd from 3 - 4:30 p.m. on Zoom. The book is: *Inclusive Teaching: Strategies for Promoting Equity in the College Classroom* by Kelly A. Hogan and Viji Sathy. The book is offered from the library as an ebook with unlimited access. Read the first two chapters before the first meeting.
 - b) Senate update/communications - Updates from Senate meeting on February 5, 2024.
 - i) President Dr. Ginsberg addressed the senate. He is still on a "listening tour", very engaged with Maryland's legislators to promote TU and the R2 initiatives. President Ginsberg is offering regular brown bag lunches and office hours for the TU community.

- ii) Provost Dr. Perreault reported that retention and enrollment for Fall 2024 exceeded last year's numbers.
- iii) USM system will experience an over \$45 million budget cut, details to come.
- iv) The StartUP at the Armory provided a report of their successful and multimillions of dollars gains. They encourage the TU community to visit and discuss any potential start up idea.
- v) Critical motions:
 - (1) Motion 23/24-24 Academic Senate approved sabbatical leave for librarians.
 - (2) Motion 23/24 to approve the revised CLA constitution failed by 10-14-4 because senators disagreed on that department chairs may appoint college council members.

7) Ongoing Issues/Initiatives/Old Business:

- a) Future FCSM Awards discussion: Council members created a collection of Pros, Cons, and Suggestions for (and comments about) proposed change in FCSM Awards.
 - i) Pros/Benefits:
 - (1)
 - ii) Cons/Challenges:
 - (1)
 - iii) Suggestions/Comments:
 - (1)
 - iv) This information will be distributed to the departments by department representatives to gather feedback from faculty and staff.
- b) Feedback on forms/processes proposed by Teaching Evaluation Task Force: there were 93 responses collected in Excel file. To note: these forms/processes are proposed. Data gathered has been sent to the Academic Senate who asked for feedback on the forms and procedure.
- c) Undergraduate Student Council update: Students had a meeting last Friday with FCSM College Council Chairperson Lottero-Perdue serving as their faculty advisor. The plan is to do tabling with two students at a time once in the Science Complex and one in the York Road building on two consecutive days. Looking for suggestions and feedback from students. Five students are currently on the Undergraduate FCSM Student Council.

8) New Business

- a) Motion to create guidelines for standing committees (excluding PTRM) regarding how to handle when individuals elected or appointed to committees have a sabbatical or leave of absence.
 - i) Motion 2-9-2024-#1 If a member of a standing committee, not including PTRM, takes a sabbatical or other leave of absence, the College Council Chair will appoint a replacement to serve during the time of absence. This appointment will be made in consultation with the appointee and the appointee's department chair/supervisor; if relevant to a college-wide position, it may also be made in consultation with the Dean of the College.
 - ii) Motion passed 13 approved; 1 absent (left early).

- b) Motion to allow the STEM Education committee to internally elect a chair given that there is currently no STEM Education Center Director. (The bylaws state that the de facto chair is the STEM Education Center Director but that does not exist.)
 - i) Motion 2-9-2024-#2 To allow the new FCSM STEM Education committee to elect a chair since there is no STEM Education Center Director (until/if a STEM Education Center Director is appointed).
 - ii) Motion passed. 13 approved; 1 absent (left early).
- 9) Items from the floor
 - a) Concern raised to the Council chair by an adjunct faculty member feeling that they are not being compensated for FERPA, Title IX, and other mandatory trainings. Chairperson Lottero-Perdue will table this for now in the council.
- 10) Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Carbonaro

Recording Secretary