Minutes of the February 10, 2017 FCSM College Council Meeting.

The FCSM College Council met on Smith Hall, Room 306 at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Michael McGuire, Chairperson, presiding.

Member Attendees: FCSM: Vonnie Shields, David Vanko; Biological Sciences: Harald Beck, Pam Healey; Chemistry: Shannon Stitzel, Ellen Hondrogiannis; Computer and Information Sciences: Josh Dehlinger, Michael McGuire; Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences: Jeff Simpson; Mathematics: Elizabeth Goode, Xiaoyin Wang; At Large: Shuhua Ma (Chemistry); Student Representatives: Nusrat Sharmin (Graduate Representative), Jessica Henley (Undergraduate Representative).

Absentees: Sergiy Borodachov (notified in advance), Parviz Ghavamian (notified in advance), Shuhua Ma (notified in advance)

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

1. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes of the December 16, 2016 meeting were approved with two abstentions.

2. Announcements from the Dean
   2.1. FCSM needs a sabbatical replacement on the Faculty Development Center Task Force for the spring. Are there any volunteers? Maggie Reitz (Vice Provost) can provide information on the group’s progress so far.
   2.2. Congratulations to Dr. John Sivey (Chemistry) on his new NSF CAREER award of $500,536. This is FCSM’s fifth CAREER award – a remarkable distinction!
   2.3. Update on President Trump’s January 27, 2017 Executive Order from Maryland’s Office of the Attorney General.

3. Remarks from the Dean
   3.1. The new Jess and Mildred Fisher Endowed Chair in the Mathematical and Computing Sciences has been awarded to two professors. They are Dr. Nathan McNew (Mathematics) and Dr. Nam Nguyen (CIS). Congratulations!
   3.2. FCSM’s FY18 budget requests have been forwarded to the Provost’s Budget Office. FY18 is likely to be a flat budget, so our expectations are low. Nevertheless, we requested:
       4 new lecturer positions;
       1 new tenure-track position in bioinformatics and data analysis;
       1 Assistant Dean for STEM Education;
       Funding for the Mathematics Placement Exam.
   3.3. Gary Levy visited the Chairs’ Council this week accompanied by three staff from the Office of Sponsored Programs & Research (OSPR). He discussed the transitions taking place in OSPR, and Dr. Levy sent out an informational announcement yesterday about OSPR, including who to contact for services.
   3.4. New programs under construction:
       PBC in Health Information Technology Management
       PBC in Computer Forensics
       MS in Actuarial Science and Predictive Analytics
3.5. African Centers of Excellence program, funded by the World Bank (WB): an opportunity to collaborate in a partnership. Dr. Clare Muhoró (Chemistry) is investigating. The WB has suggested that TU look at partnering with Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife, Nigeria (near Lagos), with a STEM focus.

3.6. Shelter in Place project: TU will be modifying doors throughout campus to enable proper shelter-in-place security. Doors that allow proper sheltering in place will receive a “padlock” sticker.

3.7. The National Federation of the Blind is planning to hold Youth Slam 2017, scheduled for July 23-29 (Sunday through Saturday); with educational programs for blind high school students scheduled for July 24-28 (Monday through Friday). Volunteers are sought to provide interesting STEM activities that are accessible to blind students.

4. Remarks from the Chairperson


4.2. Dr. Xiaoyin Wang from Mathematics Department will be a one-semester representative from the Department of Mathematics, filling in for Sergiy Borodachov who is on sabbatical leave this spring.

5. Updates from FCSM Departments

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

6. Old Business

The Council discussed recommendations for increasing participation from other colleges in seeking funding the Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Committee.

7. New Business

7.1. The Council discussed travel funding for FCSM lecturers. It was agreed that travel funding should be available to all faculty regardless of tenure-track.

7.2. The PTRM committee has asked representatives of the College Council to disseminate a document of PTRM issues to their respective departments and to ask for feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nusrat Sharmin.
(Recording Secretary)