

**COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**  
**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm, February 10, 2023**  
**Kistner Conference Room, SC 4230**

The FCSM College Council met in the Science Complex, Room 4230 at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Pamela Lottero-Perdue, Chairperson, presiding. An option to Zoom into the meeting was made available; five participants attended via Zoom.

**Member attendees:** **Interim Dean:** Chris Salice; **Associate Dean:** Vonnie Shields; **Biological Sciences:** Elana Ehrlich (Recording Secretary), Anne Estes; **Chemistry:** Stephen Hancock, Nicole Carbonaro (Zoom); **Computer and Information Sciences:** Jinie Pak, Yeong-Tae Song; **Mathematics:** Min Ji (Vice Chairperson); **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Michelle Casey; Raj Kolgani (Zoom) **At Large:** Faith Weeks (Biology) (Zoom), Pamela Lottero-Perdue (PAGS; Chairperson); **Students:** Emily O'Donnell (ENVS, Graduate); Kelsey Evans (Chemistry; Undergraduate)

Also present – Mary Stapleton, Kristin Pinkowski

Absent - 1

**AGENDA**

- A. Introductions
- B. Approval of minutes from the December 9, 2022 FCSM Council meeting
  1. 11 votes to approve; 3 vote to abstain.
- C. Announcements and remarks from the Dean and Associate Dean
  1. Dean Chris Salice
    - a. Phone issue should be resolved this semester; those who requested phones in research areas should be able to receive them.
    - b. Absenteeism and intervention re: student success – Faculty outreach email coming regarding identification and outreach to at-risk students.
    - c. Spring forum and social – March 31<sup>st</sup>, DEI award will be included and will be described in instructions about event, nomination package due date March 10<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Assoc Dean Vonnie Shields
    - a. USM Chancellor feedback session regarding the President search.
    - b. ChatGPT – Zoom option still open.
    - c. Commencement – Bethany Pace spearheading commencement, will be at SECU arena, six ceremonies, reintroducing grad speakers, new nomination process.
    - d. Upcoming open houses in the Commons in the Science Complex.
- D. Announcements from the Council Chairperson Pam Lottero-Perdue: No announcements apart from later in the meeting making motions to approve the Team-Teaching policy DEI Awards for faculty and staff.

E. Highlights from FCSM Departments (*Note: General updates are in the announcements folder in SharePoint.*)

1. Biological Sciences

- a. [Save the date] Women in Science Forum, Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> (9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the South Campus Pavilion).
- b. Starting Fall 2023 no classes scheduled from 12 – 1 p.m. This is being reserved for seminars.
- c. Enrollment is down to approximately 900 majors. Pre-pandemic enrollment was approximately 1200 Biology majors.
- d. Safety/Personal Protective Equipment signs being placed on teaching and research doors.
- e. Re-evaluating rooms to look for additional needed spaces.
- f. Forms have been created to request space in the Vivarium.
- g. Discussed how changing CHEM organic chem classes from 300 to 200 level.
- h. Currently interviewing candidates via Zoom for the Plant Physiology Tenure Track position. Several candidates are international, so Zoom interviews for everyone is more equitable.
- i. On-campus interviews for the Microbiology Tenure Track position begins on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and ends on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- j. Molecular Biology Lecturer position applications are being reviewed.
- k. Decided to make a committee to nominate faculty and staff for the following types of awards:
  - 1) FCSM faculty/staff awards, Board of Regents faculty/staff award, TU staff impact award.
  - 2) Potentially also awards for professional societies, other groups outside TU.
- l. Working on developing attendance policy for laboratory sections. Policy would be course specific, but all sections within a course must follow the same policy. Since medical excuses should not be used (equity issues), should there even be “excused” vs. “unexcused” absences? Many faculty suggested dropping a certain number of assignments/quizzes/lab activities. Every course should establish a maximum number of missed labs allowed; if the maximum is reached, should students be referred to CARE team and/or fail the course?

2. Chemistry

- a. Ms. Francis Knapp began her tenure as the Introductory Chemistry Lab manager on January 11, 2023.
- b. Mr. Siamak Salmasi began his tenure as the Science Tutor Coordinator on January 11, 2023.
- c. Campus visits and interviews are being held for the Tenure-track inorganic chemistry position beginning on February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- d. The Tenure-track forensic chemistry search committee has requested to interview three candidates with tentative on campus interviews in late Feb./early March.
- e. The Department of chemistry will be hosting an outreach event for Chemistry majors and minors on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The event will highlight career services, tutoring center services, scholarship and internship and opportunities, and departmental research highlights and opportunities.

### 3. Computer and Information Sciences

- a. Faculty search for 6 positions is well underway. Starting from February 9<sup>th</sup>, there are 11 on-campus visits for candidates. Problem with folks signing the offer and then not coming.

### 4. Mathematics

- a. The hiring committee has finished the Zoom interviews and invited three candidates for campus interviews for the following two weeks.

### 5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences

- a. Two new lecturers (Physics and Astronomy) joined PAGS this semester.
- b. PAGS has two active Tenure-track faculty searches happening now.
- c. Astrophysics candidates will be on campus from February 20<sup>th</sup> until March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- d. Geology candidates will be on campus from February 2<sup>nd</sup> until February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- e. PAGS has four active staff searches happening now.
  - 1) Administrative assistant (replacing Margie Fasy), position was recently approved, and committee is being formed.
  - 2) Instrument support specialist/machinist in PAGS, search committee has made an offer which was accepted. William Spekis will start on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - 3) Instrument support specialist in UEBL (replacing Mark Monk) is currently posted. Position only received four applicants before the original close date, so posting has been extended through early March to attract more applicants.
  - 4) Instrument Support Specialist: Materials Science: 20 applications have been received; selection process is expected to start soon.

## F. Standing Agenda Items

### 1. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns.

- a. Diversity Action Committee – no news.
- b. Taskforce report is out and being publicized, and there will be feedback conversation options within each department.

### 2. Senate update/communications:

- a. Interim Provost Cooper stated that all initiatives started under the former President and Provost will be continued.
- b. AAUP highlighted that two Maryland senators will soon introduce bills to allow collective bargaining for state employed faculty, staff, and graduate students.
- c. TURFA will soon offer a workshop on “How to retire.”
- d. Benjamin Lowenthal (Administration and Finance) provided an overview of TU budget for the next upcoming fiscal years. No cuts are expected.
- e. Several motions passed, e.g., students who enter TU with an AA degree will be exempt from completing the TSEM requirement.

## G. Constitution and Bylaws Work

1. Update on FCSM Staff meeting held January 25, 2023 – Lottero-Perdue led the event, Dean Chris Salice also present; well attended event; good connections made; staff will meet beyond this event to discuss how they can communicate and may wish to be represented on the council.
2. Input re: College Council Executive Committee Responsibilities and Committees.
  - a. A PowerPoint presentation was made to College Council on executive committee makeup and different committees under the college council in all colleges at TU.
  - b. Discussion in small groups about what should the executive council makeup look like and what committees should be under the college council.
  - c. Discussion as a whole council focused on the executive committee make-up and roles.
  - d. Discussion with whole council about committees tabled until March meeting.
3. Upcoming for March meeting: Draft Constitution for review by the council. This will be drafted by Lottero-Perdue and based on feedback thus far from the council and FCSM community).

## H. Other Ongoing Initiatives

1. Updates from Ad Hoc FCSM Student Council Committee - How can the college best communicate with students?
  - a. Undergraduate student meeting February 27<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 5 p.m. - Looking for student representatives, reaching out to student clubs, and will have meeting with pizza, trying to figure out how to move forward.
  - b. FCSM Student Club list needs updating.
  - c. Graduate student meeting – recruiting students via grad directors – February 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. Team Teaching: Vote on approval of language.
  - a. Dean Chris Salice summarized policy and feedback from leadership council, comments on changing model 4 examples, a few other typos noticed, policy is on share drive.
  - b. Thirteen vote to approve (one absent) with marked edits, and possibility of chairs/deans making changes to form.
3. DEI Awards: Vote on approval of language, two awards – one each for faculty and staff.
  - a. Thirteen vote to approve, one absent.

## I. New Business

1. Items from the floor – Awards nomination process, sending poll to all departments, urge departments to participate.
2. Large class workload issues, lecturer issues re: equity when teaching lots of students, time spent on grading.

## J. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Elana Ehrlich

Recording Secretary