

College Council Meeting Minutes
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:00 pm, March 13, 2026

Voting Members Present:

Biological Sciences: Daniel Caetano and Vonnie Shields; **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:** Parviz Ghavamian and Jia-An Yan; **Teaching Professors and Clinical Faculty:** Miriam Parnes; **STEM Education:** Kristin Frank; **Staff:** Hannah Berry (Co-secretary) and Jennifer Streb (Co-secretary); **Students:** Kamiya Plummer (Biology; Undergraduate), Urja Desai (Forensic Science; Graduate)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Ex-Officio: Dean: Matthew Nugent; **Associate Deans:** Ming Tomayko and Chris Salice.
Building Manager: Josh Wilhide.

Visitors:

Howard Kaplon, William Shipley, Denise Hayman

1. Approval of the minutes of February 13, 2026, FCSM Council meeting.
The minutes were approved with unanimous consent.
2. Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent.
 - A. Reminder to do mandatory training due March 27, 2026
 - B. Enrollment for Fall and student contract signing is up, including an increase in transfer enrollment.
 - C. FACET is populating their website with tools and videos and offering visits to departments to assist with increased accessibility. Look out for updates from the University as well.
 - D. Campus has been sending out applications for an AI-based tool to be used in advising for pre-planning and scheduling for students with the hope to have something in place sometime in the next year.
 - E. Search for the Dean of Graduate Studies is ongoing, with the goal of the Provost to make decisions towards the end of March.
 - F. Search for University Chief Financial Officer in Administration and Finance is also ongoing. President Ginsberg is interested in a new budgeting approach with the hopes that the position will be filled in the next few weeks.
 - G. CIS is moving forward with adding or renaming some tracks in AI, this is in addition to the university's new institute on Artificial Intelligence, directed by Alexei Kolesnikov
 - H. Forensics PhD has been approved to submit a full proposal.
 - I. Reviewing PTRM procedures and committee make-up at the FCSM level. Members of the College PTRM committee have gone back to their departments and are in stages of discussion.
 - J. Additionally, University PTRM committee has proposed changes to the ART document to allow colleges to have more flexibility in determining the composition of their PTRM committees based on the needs of the college, which has been shared with the Provost's Office.
 - K. Staff and Faculty Service Awards were held for the University on March 13, 2026. Two employees from FCSM were recognized for their 30+ years of service.

3. Announcements and remarks from the Associate Dean Ming Tomayko
 - A. With continued focus on boosting enrollment, Associate Dean Tomayko attended the transfer fair at Howard Community College on behalf of FCSM. This is the first time Admissions has invited colleges to attend, and it was a success. Students were most interested in cybersecurity, biology, and engineering.
 - B. We are participating in three admitted student days at TU. The first took place on Saturday, March 7, 2026, with tours of the Science Complex and 7800 York Road Building offered for the first time. There is a hope of creating a virtual tour of 10 West to add to the tour soon.
 - C. Between March 30, 2026, and April 10, 2026, we are expecting large groups of visitors to come through the Science Complex as part of their tour on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. FCSM Ambassadors will be tabling to greet visitors and answer questions.
 - D. STEM Ed representatives from FCSM were invited to a College of Education recruitment committee meeting. The discussion was productive with specific ideas for collaboration.
 - E. The doctoral hooding ceremony will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. Faculty and staff are invited to attend.
 - F. FCSM Commencement will be on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 3 p.m. Departmental volunteers are needed for processional.
 - G. Honors Convocation is Thursday, April 9, 2026, in the evening in the Union Ballrooms. Please encourage awardees and faculty to RSVP so we get an accurate count for the catering order.
 - H. A new FCSM SharePoint was created for faculty and staff to access workshop resources such as materials from Ryan Casey's AI presentation at the January Welcome Back.
4. Announcements from Associate Dean Chris Salice
 - A. Graduate Student Admitted Day will be hosted in the Science Complex on March 28, 2026, with input and assistance from Graduate Program directors. One goal is to reach the undergraduate current students to increase informational awareness for graduate programs.
 - B. The next Leadership Lab Meeting – Running Effective Meetings with Sandy Spitzer will be on March 26, 2026, at 2 p.m. and will be recorded per request.
 - C. A LinkedIn session for Faculty will be held on April 24, 2026.
 - D. Biotech Day will be on April 10, 2026, in the Science Complex. Advertisements to students will be out soon.
 - E. FCSM awarded 45 undergraduate grants.
 - F. FUSE applications are due March 27, 2026, to fund students to do research with faculty over the summer in both traditional and CURE-like research experiences.
5. Highlights from FCSM Departments and Constituencies
 - A. Biological Sciences
 - 1) The Biology Department is re-structuring the undergraduate independent research courses BIOL 490/491/499 which are courses students take to do research in a faculty lab. Research often culminates in the presentation of a poster in the Undergraduate Research Symposium. A task force is creating a shared syllabus and expectations for the course.
 - 2) Invitations to seminars
 - a. Dr. Michelle Snyder Sabbatical Talk will be on April 7, 2026.
 - b. Beronda Montgomery, scientific researcher and author of *Lessons from Plants* and *When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America's Black Botanical Legacy*, hosted and funded by MD Hires, will be on May 5, 2026.

B. Chemistry and Forensic Science

- 1) Accolades and Achievements - Beth Kautzman is a member of the Atmospheric Emissions and Reactions Observed from Megacities to Marine Areas (AEROMMA) team that received the NASA Group Achievement Award. This honor is one of NASA's highest accolades.
- 2) A new study abroad program has been approved for students to earn 3 credits for CHEM 301 or FRSC 695 in the United Kingdom in the Minimester 2026 with Dr. Kelly Elkins.
- 3) Upcoming Seminars (all seminars start at 11:00 AM in SC 4230)
 - a. Fisher Chair Seminar - Dr. Hoa Tran-Ba (CHEMFS) will be on April 2, 2026.
 - b. Research Seminar - Dr. Karah Knope (Georgetown Chemistry) on April 23, 2026.

C. Mathematics

- 1) This year's Differentiation Bee will be on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in SC 2133. The event is aimed at students who are currently taking or have taken MATH 273. Please encourage your students to attend!
- 2) Upcoming Department Seminars - All talks will be held from 4 – 5 p.m. in YR 321 with refreshments beginning at 3:30 p.m.
 - a. Dr. Mostafa Aminzadeh (sabbatical talk) - Friday, March 13, 2026, Topic: Extending Approximate Bayesian Computation to Non-Linear Regression Models: The Case of Composite Distribution.
 - b. Dr. Miriam Parnes - Wednesday, April 1, 2026.
 - c. Dr. Xiaoyin Wang (sabbatical talk) - Monday, April 13, 2026.
- 3) 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. Stern (TBD) – Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

D. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences

- 1) Dr. Parviz Ghavamian is Co-Investigator on three approved James Webb Space Telescope proposals awarded a combined total of 130 hours of observation time.
- 2) Electronics Manager position search is ongoing, with candidates visiting campus this week.

6. Standing Agenda Items

A. Senate update/communications

- 1) Provost shared the progress of digital accessibility. Accessibility requirements take effect April 25, 2026. Provost emphasized that non-accessible PDFs must be removed from all Blackboard sites and noted that the targeted accessibility score for course materials is 80 - 85%.
- 2) TU's AAUP 70th anniversary is ongoing, highlighting academic freedom.
- 3) Several consent agenda items were approved. Tabled disbanding the Faculty Hearing Committee and Faculty Grievance Committee. Senators expressed concern about the lack of information.
- 4) Updated University PTRM ART materials will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives/Old Business

- A. Feedback for FCSM Workload Guidelines is being collected by College Representatives. College Representatives are to submit summarized feedback to Nicole Carbonaro to be compiled and submitted to FCSM Dean's Office by April 1, 2026.
- B. Discussion of teaching load, class size, mentoring, course releases, and service as part of workload.

- C. We successfully passed updates to the College Council Constitution and are now working on edits to the bylaws. Bylaw edits are to be approved by the College Council and then to Senate with the Constitution to be ratified, hopefully in May. Discussion and edits were held. Motion to vote on edits passed with 13 votes at the April meeting.
 - D. The Student Survey was shared on a survey for Factors for Student Success in FCSM Courses, and students tabled Science Complex and 7800 York Road Building. Discussion and working groups were formed.
8. New Business
- A. Edits to Election Procedures Document to align with the ART document. Clinical Faculty are not part of voting body for College Promotion & Tenure. Proposed motion to approve minor edits to reflect this change.
 - B. Motion to remove clinical faculty from College P&T Committee elections passed with 14 votes.
9. Adjournment
- A. Motion to adjourn was passed and meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Berry and Jennifer Streb, Co-Secretaries