

**COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**  
**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., March 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; 1 participant 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; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Jinie Pak, Yeong-Tae Song; **Mathematics:** Min Ji (Vice Chairperson), Jing Tian; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Michelle Casey, Raj Kolagani (Corresponding Secretary); **At Large:** Faith Weeks (Biology), Pamela Lottero-Perdue (PAGS; Chairperson); **Students:** Emily O'Donnell on zoom (ENVS, Graduate); Kelsey Evans (Chemistry; Undergraduate)

Absent: 0

**AGENDA**

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from the February 10, 2023 FCSM Council meeting
3. Vote to approve - unanimous (14)
4. Announcements and remarks from the Dean and Associate Dean
5. Dean Salice - Phones – progress is being made.
  - A. Dean Salice - Active shooter training, offered monthly via public safety, register online, seeing about holding a training in the Science Complex.
  - B. Associate Dean Shields – Open Houses – Admitted student days - March 31<sup>st</sup> (Science Complex), April 1<sup>st</sup> (Science Complex), April 15<sup>th</sup> (Science Complex), May 6<sup>th</sup> (Union, need panelists).
  - C. Associate Dean Shields – Needs for commencement- VIP Marshals, faculty Marshals, back up card readers, degree candidate marshals (6).
6. Announcements from Alexi Kolesnikov, Director of TU's Office of Undergraduate Research
  - A. New members in office of undergraduate research, assistant director and admin support undergraduate research grants, research symposium and CURE poster session upcoming
  - B. The College Cup competition deadline is fast approaching (April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 p.m.). We want to make sure that TU students are aware of this great opportunity. <https://www.towson.edu/campus/entrepreneurship/college-cup.html>
  - C. **Win \$10,000 and automatic acceptance into the next StarTUp Accelerator? Find out how.** The College Cup Innovation Challenge is a university-wide challenge that is **open to students of all majors** who want to develop their socially- or commercially oriented ideas. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how to deliver a compelling presentation, have access to mentors to practice and prepare for the challenge event, and add this distinction to their resume which will highlight these valuable workplace skills. *Selected participants will have a chance to win \$10,000 and be automatically admitted to the next [StarTUp Accelerator](#) cohort.* Learn more about this amazing opportunity. [Applications are currently open.](#) Deadline is March 27<sup>th</sup>.

7. Announcements from the Council Chairperson
  - A. See Self-/peer nominations process survey results. Big result: 59% (of 124) prefer both peer and self-nominations; 25% prefer peer nominations only; 13% no preference; remainder prefer self-nominations only. Propose to share these results with the incoming dean.
  - B. Four of our members will be rotating off after this year: Min Ji (Math), Stephen Hancock (Chem), Anne Estes (Bio), and Raj Kolagani (PAGS). I've emailed chairs about the need for each department to vote on a replacement so that the person who starts next year can come to our May 12 meeting (along with existing people). Make sure to vote for new members in April department meetings.
  - C. At the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, we need to elect officers (to existing positions as per the current constitution – but willing to be flexible with responsibilities as per the new constitution if ratified by the Academic Senate): Chair, Vice Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary. I'm happy to talk to anyone who might like to be Chair next year.
  - D. From March 27<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup> there will be an evaluation for the TU community to complete to evaluate members of the president's cabinet: <https://www.towson.edu/about/administration/council.html>. CC reps should push this out to get the most amount of response possible; it is not necessary that everyone evaluates all members of the cabinet to participate.
  - E. An announcement from Kristin Pinkowski: **Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon: *She's in CTRL***: Join the Hill-Lopes Scholars Program on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in University Union Ballroom E for an evening with [Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon](#) for a keynote about her book [She's in CTRL](#), a guidebook for women to take back tech. For more information: <https://www.towson.edu/fcsm/scholarships/hill-lopes-scholars/events.html>
8. Guest Speaker: Josh Wilhide, Building Manager (Updates and Q and A)
  - A. We have accomplished a lot.
  - B. Building is out of warranty; facilities will need to learn how to maintain equipment or bring people in from outside.
  - C. UEBL is ramping down and moving to the Science Complex, then we will be 100% out of Smith Hall.
  - D. Gas on in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor research labs is still being fixed.
  - E. Facilities – understaffed, no one assigned to the Science Complex, there is a list of work orders.
9. Highlights from FCSM Departments
  - A. Biological Sciences
    - 1) Last meeting was January 31, 2023.
    - 2) Since then, we have done on-campus interviews for the Tenure-Track Microbiology/Virology and Plant Physiology positions.
    - 3) We had one on-campus interview for the Microbiology lecturer position, currently under negotiation.
    - 4) Next meeting will be March 14, 2023.
  - B. Chemistry
    - 1) The department is proceeding with the inorganic chemistry tenure-track position search. Candidates have been interviewed.
    - 2) The department is proceeding with the forensic chemistry tenure-track position search. Candidates are in the interview process.

- C. Computer and Information Sciences
  - 1) Ten candidates visited for on campus interviews.
  - 2) Four accepted the offer. Remaining two positions already selected. We are waiting for their replies.
  - 3) TU and a university in France will co-host a conference in France.
- D. Mathematics
  - 1) Dr. Vefa Goksel has accepted our offer and will be joining us in the Fall. Dr. Goksel is a visiting assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2020. We are happy to have him in our department.
- E. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
  - 1) PAGES filled the machinist position. Bill Spekis joined us in February and plans to have all machines up and running by Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and see him in SC 2303 (the machine shop) if you have any requests.
  - 2) PAGES has filled the tenure-track position in Geosciences. Dr. George Guice was offered and has accepted the position. He will start in August.
  - 3) Candidate visits for the tenure-track position in Astrophysics have concluded. Hopefully an offer will be made by the end of this week or the beginning of next week.
  - 4) Instrument Support Specialist position has many applicants (approximately 17), interviews will begin shortly.
  - 5) Instrument Support Specialist position (Urban Environmental Biogeochemistry Laboratory) has approximately seven applicants, interviews will begin shortly.
- 10. Standing Agenda Items:
  - A. DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns
    - 1) Task force making presentations to departments.
    - 2) No updates from DAC other than they met on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - B. Senate update/communications
    - 1) Provost Cooper: UPTRM workshop will be May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 10:30 a.m.
    - 2) TU was selected as a Fulbright Institution.
    - 3) Spring 2023 Commencement volunteer and participation announcement will soon be sent out.
    - 4) Academic Senate Chair Desiree: Self nominations for University Committees will soon be out.
    - 5) Several motions were approved. For example: To change the representation in the Academic Senate constitution to ensure three permanent seats for lecturers (14-11-2).
    - 6) New proposals i.e., Holocaust Education PBC, the Ph.D. in Sustainability and Environmental Change program (24-0-0) were approved.
    - 7) The THEA program was asked to double their graduate students, but because of lack of resources, the faculty felt they needed to restructure the program to accommodate more students. Therefore, they filed the motion to deactivate the THEA program for up to three years. This motion was intensely discussed, not voted on, but sent back to the GSA to search for alternatives and increased resources.
    - 8) Lots of talk about active shooter training, added to academic senate agenda.
    - 9) Upcoming amendment to change the process for voting for academic senate representatives.

## 11. Constitution and Bylaws Work

### A. Timeline for process moving forward.

- 1) March 10<sup>th</sup> (this meeting).
  - a) Get feedback on constitution draft,
  - b) Procedural vote to change constitution and bylaws (not about the content but rather a vote that says we will be changing those documents) – **UPDATE: We did not do this vote at the meeting. Instead, Lottero-Perdue emailed a link to a Microsoft Form survey to collect votes; the survey included a spot for council member name and yes/no vote. Of 14 voting members, 13 responded and all 13 responded “yes.” One member did not respond. Thus, this motion passes and we can move onto the vote for the constitution and bylaws documents at our April meeting.**
  - c) Discuss updates on bylaws.
- 2) By April 7<sup>th</sup>, College Council receives new constitution and bylaws draft.
- 3) April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting – College Council Vote on constitution and bylaws, need 2/3 approval to pass.
- 4) The existing college electorate must ratify the constitution (simple majority or 2/3 voting); the constitution will be sent out for ratification by the elections committee in late April/early May.
- 5) Senate must ratify before the new constitution and bylaws go into effect (probably in September).
- 6) Any committees that are represented at the university senate level must be in bylaws and must have elected positions. Not all college committees need to be in the bylaws (e.g., if they are comprised of appointed members). We can remove some committees, and any committees not at college level don't need to be in the bylaws. university is creating a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice committee so we might want to add Diversity Acton Committee to our bylaws. We are also proposing to add a STEM Education committee.

### B. Constitution and bylaws draft feedback – draft on SharePoint. Went through the draft and provided comments and feedback. Lottero-Perdue will edit based on this feedback and provide the edited version no later than April 7<sup>th</sup>.

12. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives: The planned update from the FCSM Student Council Ad hoc Committee was tabled until the April meeting; it was not discussed due to a lack of time.

## 13. New Business

- A. Future FCSM Outstanding Part-time Faculty Award – A faculty member in the Physics Astronomy and Geosciences department posed an idea to have an FCSM Outstanding Part-time Faculty award. This was met with positive feedback by the council. Language will be drafted for this award for the April or May meeting to be voted upon then by the council.
- B. Cancellation of journal subscriptions – The library has cancelled subscriptions to premier research journals in some STEM disciplines because they do not receive enough “clicks,” however, this is problematic for some programs and faculty who rely upon access to the journals. While we are aware that Inter-Library Loan exists and is often fast, faculty expressed the need for having full access via subscription to support their research and to keep abreast of current research in their disciplines.
- C. Items from the floor

## 14. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Elana Ehrlich  
Recording Secretary