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

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

Member Attendees: FCSM: David Vanko; **Biological Sciences:** Harald Beck, Pam Healey; **Chemistry:** Shannon Stitzel, Ellen Hondrogiannis; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Michael McGuire; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Jeff Simpson, Cody Sandifer (for Parviz Ghavamian); **Mathematics:** Elizabeth Goode, Xiaoyin Wang; **Student Representative:** Jessica Henley (Undergraduate Representative)

Absentees: (All notified in advance.) Vonnie Shields, Sergiy Borodachov, Parviz Ghavamian, Shuhua Ma, Nusrat Sharmin (Graduate Representative), Josh Delinger

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

1. **Approval of Minutes**
   The minutes of the February 10, 2017 meeting were approved with one abstention and one change. The Dean requested that Executive Order 127-17 be specified in item 2.3.

2. **Presentation: Heidi Feng, Director, School of Emerging Technologies** discussed Seed Funding Program and Special Interest Groups.

3. **Announcements from the Dean**
   - **3.1.** Women in Science Forum – March 11th from 8-12 – Chesapeake Rooms, University Union
   - **3.2.** Last month, FCSM needed a sabbatical replacement on the Faculty Development Center Task Force for the spring. Thanks to Xiaoyin Wang from Mathematics, who volunteered to serve on the task force
   - **3.3.** Last month we heard an update from the Maryland Attorney General (AG) regarding the January 27th Executive Order (EO) on protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the US. At the time that EO was under a temporary restraining order. Now, the original EO has been replaced with a new EO from the White House. We have no new guidance from the AG, but assume that caution and legal counsel is still advised for any faculty and students from the affected countries who are considering travelling outside of the US.
   - **3.4.** The National Federation of the Blind's Youth Slam 2017 is 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 Dean**
   - **4.1.** From the FCSM Success Log:
     - **4.1.1.** February 28, 2017: Francis M. McCubbin (Geology '04), astromaterials curator in the NASA Johnson Space Center's Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Division, will receive the F.W. Clarke Award from the Geochemical Society at their annual meeting, Goldschmidt2017, later this year in Paris. The Clarke Award recognizes an early-career scientist for a single outstanding contribution to geochemistry or cosmochemistry, published either as a single paper or a series of papers on a single topic.

4.1.2. March 2, 2017: Physics graduate Paul Lee was named a 2017 Local Teacher of the Year by the national PhysTEC (Physics Teacher Education Consortium) organization. Lee is now a high school physics teacher in Howard County.

4.1.3. Consideration of funding travel for lecturers: this has been supported by both the College Council and the Chairs' Council. We will support lecturer travel when properly justified.

4.1.4. FY17 General Endowment Funds:

Budget:

Category	Budgeted	Used/Obligated	Remaining
Undergraduate Research (8)	$165,000	$103,000	$62,698
Fisher Chairs (2)	$15,000	$15,000	
Marketing	$20,000	$18,750	$1,250
GRA (20 @ $4k)	$80,000	$20,000	$60,000
Contingency	$54,500	$30,689	$23,811
			$147,759

Recent decisions:

Item	Amount
Plasma Cleaner - PAGS, CHEM, BIOL	$ 20,022
Sputter Coater - PAGS	$ 8,500
Flow Meter = PAGS	$ 6,600
Automatics Cell Counter - BIOL	$ 2,700
FT-IR Laser - CHEM	$ 2,600
Benchtop Centrifuge - CHEM	$ 7,000
Datacenter in a Box - COSC	$ 25,000
Equipment for BIOL 201 - BIOL	$ 16,842
Real Time PCR Instrument - BIOL	$ 14,000
Ellipsometer - PAGS	$ 4,000
Imaging System - BIOL	$ 6,000
GC-MS Software - CHEM	$ 15,609
	$128,873

4.1.5. Feedback from STEM Leaders breakfast

- Can we get more preparation for graduate school? Our friends in graduate school say it's a big change.
- Society of Physics Students outreach program at Wolf Street Academy (Fells Point). Every Friday, after school science club. Expand to other clubs?
- Can TU have a research expo like UMBC's?
- Good feedback on their experiences with Undergraduale Learning Assistantss (ULAs) in their classes and with serving as ULAs. Can we expand?

4.1.6. Chemistry and biology shared experiences on use of Supplemental Instructors (under Academic Achievement Center) and ULAs.

5. Remarks from the Chairperson

5.1. Jonathan Lazar received USM Reagents Award for research. Dean shared past winners of FCSM Reagents' Awards and Elkins Professors.

5.2. College Council's goal for 2017 is to develop list of potential Reagents' Award candidates in May (deadline is last Friday in October).

6. **Updates from FCSM Departments**

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

   6.1. Biology has asked PAGS to teach a one semester physics course for Biology majors. Workload committee still collecting data to give faculty ideal of what others are doing in their same rank.

   6.2. PAGS is discussing a one semester physics course for Biology majors at its next department meeting. They are undergoing program review. Their PSM (under the direction of Raj Kolagani) has had items added.

   6.3. Computer & Information Sciences (COSC) is in the middle of two searches. Their department approved the Data Sciences Track (in the Masters in Computer Sciences major). They are undergoing reassessment for ABET accreditation.

   6.4. Mathematics is holding its UG research conference later in the spring and accepting presentations by recent graduates as well. Although they reported on successful searches, it was noted that some candidates turned them down. The Dean noted that one factor may be the result of his interviews where he notes the research requirements comparable to an R1 without the same level of support as an R1. It was suggested that we send out surveys to inquire why potential candidates turn us down. A move has already been initiated from central administration to start doing systematic exit interviews for people leaving.

   6.5. Chemistry Sonali Raje received her Fulbright Fellowship to study Assessment in India.

7. **Old Business**

   7.1. COSC provided feedback on PTRM Committee Issues. Feedback will be collected up until next meeting in April.

   7.2. Feedback was requested for recommendations from FCSM College Council for changes to Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry grants.

8. **New Business**

   8.1. Machinist position had been defunded by Provost and then the SAP taken back in November. Dean Vanko has requested SAP in the FY 18 budget request. He asked for the college to provide input on how to furnish the 1100 ft^2 space in the new building for the machine shop. Suggested a new person can help us modernize. Dean Vanko noted that only ~$900 of work had been outsourced while PAGS noted faculty had been carrying out their own machining which added to their workload.

   Dean Vanko further noted that the goal was to fill the position with someone with technical skills to support research activities/instrumentation for the entire college in addition to acting as a part time machine shop manager.

   8.2. OTS proposed town hall meeting for college for feedback on BlackBoard.

Adjournment

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

Ellen Hondrogiannis

Associate Professor, Chemistry