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

The FCSM College Council met in 7800 Your Road Building, Room 459 at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Michael McGuire, Chairperson, presiding.

Member Attendees: FCSM: David Vanko, Vonnie Shields; Biological Sciences: Jacqueline Doyle, Elizabeth O’Hare, Harald Beck; Chemistry: Ann-Maria Soto, Kelly Elkins, Shuhua Ma; Computer and Information Sciences: Michael McGuire; Josh Dehlinger; Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences: Parviz Ghavamian; Mathematics: Yunwei Cui, Sergiy Borodachov; Student Representatives: Dawn Myers (Graduate Student, Mathematics), Claire Glenn (Undergraduate Student, Computer and Information Sciences)

Absentees: Jennifer Scott (notified in advance)

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

1. Approval of Minutes.
   Changes were proposed to the minutes of the October 13, 2017 meeting: In Section 6.1 the departmental update from the Biology Department has been modified to state that the department has begun a search for a new Clinical Assistant Professor; in Section 7.1, a summary of the evaluation procedure for lecturers by the Chemistry Department was added.

   The minutes with the proposed changes were unanimously approved with 1 abstention.

2. IRB Presentation.
   An invited presentation was given by Dr. Elizabeth Katz, the Chairperson of the Towson University Institutional Review Board (IRB). Dr. Katz described types of research and review categories (exempt, expedited, and full board review) with respect to the use of human subjects in research by TU faculty. She also discussed required forms, deadlines, and a timeline of the review process of TU faculty’s research proposals by IRB. On January 19, 2017, final revisions to the Federal Policy for the protection of human subjects in research were published. The Towson University IRB intends to implement these regulations starting January 19, 2018. The TU IRB has updated the University guidelines and procedures to comply with the new Federal regulations. Human subject protection training must be completed by all PIs on research using human subjects.

3. Announcements from the Dean.
   3.1. Wednesday, November 22nd: TU Closed (Happy Thanksgiving).
   3.2. Friday, December 1st, at 3:00 p.m. in SM326: CRASE training (Citizens’ Reaction to Active Shooter Events). It is a one-time requirement.

4. Remarks from the Dean.
   4.1. Remember – FCSM’s Top Three Focus areas for 2017-2020:
       Student Success and Assessment

       FCSM college assessment data have been collected and uploaded by Associate Dean Vonnie Shields – thanks to all who helped her with that project!

       Research and Scholarship

       FCSM has been awarded $6.4M in grants so far this financial year – a record (relative to $6.3M in FY11).
Diversity and Inclusion

Note: 34% of FCSM’s undergraduate students are minority students. This includes 940 African-American/Black students and 270 Hispanic/Latino students. Minority student retention rates in the FCSM match or exceed the rates for White students. Faculty recruitment efforts need to highlight these facts, thus encouraging minority faculty candidates to be more receptive to joining the FCSM.

4.2. Coalition case update (a group of students filed a suite two years ago). Breaking news: the judge has rejected the two suggested remedies. This means that the idea of transferring whole programs from historically white institutions to historically black institutions is off the table. There is an article in “The Baltimore Sun” about this.

4.3. New Science building update:
   
a. Bid Package #1 - $25M to cover concrete foundations, geopiers, site work, etc. - will go to Board of Public Works on November 15th. Bids for Package #2 ($130M) are due at the end of November.
   
b. Fund-raising: we have about $1.5M committed so far; our target goal is $5M

4.4. STEM Education Center – Associate Professor Cindy Ghent (Biological Sciences) will serve as its Director for a three-year term. She was given more resources to rejuvenate the Center.

4.5. From the FCSM Success Log:
   
a. October 16, 2017: Dr. Sarah Haines (Biological Sciences) was appointed by the USEPA’s Office of Environmental Education to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s National Environmental Education Advisory Council. She became one of only several academics in Environmental Education nationwide to be selected for this service.

4.6. Additional question/comments: Sergiy Borodachov mentioned that some faculty in the Mathematics Department expressed their concern related to the pedestrian crossing on Cross Campus Drive connecting the Administration building and the Glen garage. It is invisible for drivers going on Cross Campus Drive towards the York Road because of the hill. With parking rearrangement occurring after the start of the construction more faculty will use this crossing and the traffic through that crossing will increase. Is installation of an additional warning light planned? David Vanko recognized that this is currently under consideration. As a temporary measure it is planned to have flaggers or crossing guards there.

5. Remarks from the Council Chairperson
   Due to a conflict in the College Council schedule with the Fall Forum, we have moved the December College Council meeting to December 15th.

6. Update from the University Senate

7. Updates from FCSM Departments
   Members from each FCSM department updated the Council on departmental news and activities.
   
7.1. Biology: Voted on guidelines and procedures for the evaluation of lecturers and on the changes to PTRM documents.
7.2. Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences: Held a Department meeting. The Provost was invited for one hour. The Provost answered questions from the faculty on promotion, tenure, and evaluation of merit. A number of good presentations were given at the Department including the colloquium talks and the summer research day presentations.

7.3. Computer & Information Sciences: No updates.

7.4. Mathematics: A search is underway for two positions in Mathematics (reviewing starts December 15th). One Department meeting was held during the past month. A colloquium talk and the Faculty seminar (for graduate students) took place.

7.5. Chemistry: Search in Biochemistry is ongoing. The final stage with interviews is coming soon.

8. Old Business
The Council Chairperson gave an update on the University Senate Motion 17/18-14 to form a task force to review the procedures for the evaluation and promotion for lecturers and senior lectures. The task force should have fair representation of tenured/tenure-track faculty and lecturers. The Provost Office should report by the end of AY2017/18. Senate will now take the lead. The Council Chairperson recommended for council members to announce this development at their next Department meeting.

9. New Business

9.1. The Provost's Office requested four nominations to the Faculty Academic Center for Excellence Advisory Board. Four nominations were requested out of which they will choose two. The advisory board will meet up to 2 times a month. The College Council agreed to nominate Ming Tomayko from Mathematics, Raj Kologani from Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences, Joyram Chakraborty from Computer and Information Sciences, and Parviz Ghavamian from Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences.

9.2. The Fisher Endowment Fund increased from $7M to $10M plus it pays out money. Two or three years ago Dean asked for advice and on how to budget the Fisher Endowment money. The following General Endowment budget for FY2018 was constructed incorporating recommendations by the College Council during the 2015/2016 Academic Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Research Experiences</td>
<td>$153,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Stipends</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher Endowed Chair in Mathematics and Computer Science</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Sponsorships</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$347,206</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**FY2019 General Endowment Projected Budget:** $390,981

The Council discussed current procedures for Fisher Endowment Budget Requests. The Council will discuss priorities for Fisher Endowment funding at the College Council Meeting to be held on December 15th. Funds not used over the next few years can be banked for equipment needs in the new building.

10. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Parviz Ghavamian, seconded by Josh Dehlinger. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Sergiy Borodachov, Recording Secretary