

**College Council Meeting Minutes**  
**FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS**  
**1:30 – 3:30 p.m., November 10, 2023**  
**SC 1230**

The FCSM College Council met in the Science Complex, Room 1230 at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Pamela Lottero-Perdue, Chairperson, presiding. An option to Zoom into the meeting was made available; 4 participants (all non-voting members) attended via Zoom.

**Member Attendees:** **Dean:** Matthew Nugent; **Associate Dean:** Vonnie Shields; **Biological Sciences:** Daniel Caetano, Elana Ehrlich; **Chemistry:** Nicole Carbonaro (Recording Secretary), Shannon Stitzel; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Yeong-Tae Song; Jinie Pak; **Mathematics:** Jing Tian (Vice Chairperson); Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences (PAGS):** Michelle Casey, Jia-An Yan; **At Large:** Pam Lottero-Perdue (PAGS, At Large member, Chair) **Students:** Marcus Rose (Graduate student); Madison Previti (Undergraduate student)

**Member Absent:** Faith Weeks (At Large, Corresponding Secretary)

**Visitors/guests:** Kristin Pinkowski, Josh Wilhide, Mary Stapleton, Amanda Charles, Jen L. Scott, Howard Kaplon, Elisabeth White

**Vote to approve the minutes** from the October 20, 2023 FCSM Council Meeting: 11 approve, 2 abstain, 1 absent of 14 voting members.

**1. Visit from Elisabeth White**, FCSM Library Liaison; she:

- 1.1. Reviewed library scholarly research support including publishing support, collection development, library journal, and database subscriptions.
- 1.2. Discussed work on developing a Read and Publish Agreement (with Cambridge and trying for Wiley) so that Open Access journals to which we subscribe as a university reduce or omit fees for TU faculty to publish in those journals.
- 1.3. Affirmed that it is best to use permalinks to library articles in Blackboard/Ultra rather than uploading pdfs; using permalinks allows the library to track usage (so if all students in a class of 50 access the article, usage is counted for 50 students but if the instructor uploads a pdf, that counts as one use).
- 1.4. Shared that the Chat with Librarian resource is available to faculty and students.

**2. Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent**

- 2.1. It is the second week for the new President Ginsburg who is open to hearing new ideas.
- 2.2. Fall Forum is planned for Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.
- 2.3. MHEC
  - 2.3.1. Taskforce is working to determine how MHEC approves programs.
  - 2.3.2. Taskforce report in December 2023.

- 2.3.3. Looking into redundancy in programs.
- 2.3.4. Ratify or accept recommendations to the legislature!
- 2.4. Modern Think Engagement Survey
  - 2.4.1. Meeting with Deans and Vice President with the goal to figure out the best way to distribute the results to faculty and staff.
  - 2.4.2. Working to figure out how best to collate 66 questions.
  - 2.4.3. Needs to be digestible to pass to everyone.
  - 2.4.4. Several universities use Modern Think.
  - 2.4.5. 32% of FCSM responded.

### **3. Announcements and remarks from Associate Dean Shields**

- 3.1. Welcomed a candidate for the FCSM college adviser position.
- 3.2. The college is looking for Lead Marshalls for Commencement and 25 faculty members to participate in the Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. FCSM Graduation ceremony.
- 3.3. Trying to make selection of student speaker for graduation process more transparent by having way to submit potential speakers from commencement into form.
- 3.4. The College Visits were not that well attended – this was a test run.

### **4. Announcements from the Council Chairperson**

- 4.1. The Election Committee has begun working on elections for the FCSM STEM Education Committee.
- 4.2. FACET has mini grants available with an early December deadline and submit proposals due November 17, 2023.

### **5. Highlights from FCSM Departments**

- 5.1. Biological Sciences
  - 5.1.1. Faculty meeting next week so not many announcements.
  - 5.1.2. Continuing search.
  - 5.1.3. Exploring Curriculum change.
- 5.2. Chemistry
  - 5.2.1. The Forensic and Organic Tenure Track Searches continue.
  - 5.2.2. Chemistry/ Forensic Chemistry undergraduate students received 12 FCSM research grants.
- 5.3. Computer and Information Sciences
  - 5.3.1. We are hiring one IT tenured–track faculty.
  - 5.3.2. Successfully passed the ABET accreditation.
  - 5.3.3. NSA cyber operations redesignation will be taking place in the Spring 2024.
- 5.4. Mathematics: The advertisement for the tenure-track Assistant Professor in Math Education is in on mathjobs.

## 5.5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences

- 5.5.1. Potluck Friendsgiving will be Wednesday, November 15th from 12:00pm until 2:00 p.m. in SC 1224. You can bring a dish to share or make a donation to the PAGS administrative assistants (Michele and Renee).
- 5.5.2. PAGS Dept Holiday Party is Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in SC 2321.
- 5.5.3. No searches.
- 5.5.4. Looking into the peer observation policy.

## 6. Standing Agenda Items:

### 6.1. DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns

- 6.1.1. PAGS weekly DEIJ seminar hosted an inclusive teaching workshop.
  - 6.1.1.1. List of things to do and what will not work.
  - 6.1.1.2. Preferred name can now update the NETID email.
- 6.1.2. Diversity summit is postponed until the spring.
- 6.1.3. FCSM Diversity Action Committee – nothing to report.
- 6.1.4. LSAMP program will have a speaker to help students who show the need to deal with mental health prior to finals.

### 6.2. Senate update/communications: The following was shared with Chair Lottero-Perdue from Ellen Hondrogiannis, At Large Member of the Academic Senate, and adapted by Pam Lottero-Perdue for dissemination to the FCSM College Council

#### 6.2.1. Teaching Evaluation Task Force Report:

- 6.2.1.1. Academic Senate voted to send report to the College Councils and to UPTRM for feedback before deciding on whether to vote on accepting it or not. FACET approved it. Several issues were raised with the instruments (mostly student evaluations but peer as well) including that it was only piloted by a few classes and (I think) 6 faculty.
- 6.2.1.2. The Senate wants feedback from faculty so it is being sent to CC Chairs to collect that feedback and relay it back to the AS. Bart should send this information to the FCSM CC Chair.
- 6.2.2. Leadership Assessment Survey: Discussion on what is being done with the results of the assessment. No response was given by the leadership. The response was low this year probably due to the change in leadership. Also, faculty did not know who they were evaluating. Survey results could result in the convening of task forces to look into various “matters”.
- 6.2.3. Emeritus Faculty: Chairs are being asked to include Emeritus Faculty on rosters.
- 6.2.4. New TU Affinity Group: Disability, Neurodiverse, Chronically Ill (Disability+) Faculty & Staff Association. There are now 7 groups TU Affinity Groups.
- 6.2.5. Flag information: Nov 13 there will be a flag rotation (around CLA). It was suggested to add info about the flags accessible by QR code.

- 6.2.6. President: President spoke and gave out his email. Wants to hear from faculty. Considers himself a faculty member in a leadership role. He will teach a class as well.
- 6.2.7. Retiree benefits: Retirees (and those who plan to become retirees someday) are still fighting for benefits.
- 6.2.8. Student Mental Health Day:
  - 6.2.8.1. SGA/GSA is looking into proposing a student mental health day, which would involve a day that the student gets to choose to take when they are not feeling well mentally; they would be excused from class(es) that day. SGA noted that there are already mental health days at other universities.
  - 6.2.8.2. Discussion in College Council about this issue: How do we support faculty so we can support students?

## **7. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives:**

- 7.1. "Comments for (and to!) the Dean" Microsoft Form
  - 7.1.1. During the Last College Council meeting, we discussed a feedback mechanism so that faculty and staff could provide feedback to the Dean anonymously.
  - 7.1.2. A Microsoft form link will be sent to faculty and staff using a NETID and name or email address will not be recorded and only the Dean will receive the form information.
  - 7.1.3. This will be sent out the following week to collect responses until the end of the semester.
- 7.2. FCSM Pilot Undergraduate Student Council
  - 7.2.1. Madison Previti, FCSM CC Undergraduate Student representative shared a plan devised with SGA Representative from FCSM, Ethan Dobbin, and FCSM CC Chair, Lottero-Perdue, to recruit other undergraduate students to form a pilot FCSM Undergraduate Student Council in the spring.
  - 7.2.2. Ideally, the council would include representation from each of the departments.
  - 7.2.3. We will reach out to seek interest from undergraduates to participate this fall (using the big screen in the Commons, emails to student club representatives, emails to department chairs) for them to participate in Spring 2024.
  - 7.2.4. Estimated service time in Spring 2024 from participants is 10 hours.
  - 7.2.5. The idea is that this council would serve as a way to communicate between students and the college (Dean's office and College Council).
  - 7.2.6. Spring events considered at this time: "tablings" to gather information, Zoom meetings, possibly a face-to-face meeting with snacks.

### 7.3. FCSM Pilot Graduate Student Council

7.3.1. Marcus Rose, FCSM CC Graduate Student representative shared that he and Sam Little, GSA representative for FCSM, met with Dean Nugent (after meeting with Lottero-Perdue) to discuss the possibility of a Graduate Student Council; this was met with support.

7.3.2. They reached out to programs to solicit interest in joining the Graduate Student Council but have gotten little response thus far; they will keep trying.

### 7.4. Ph.D. in Applied Science ongoing discussion (long-range thinking)

7.4.1. Points in favor of pursuing this program:

7.4.1.1. There is no Ph.D. in Applied Science now, and these degrees could help with the jump to R2.

7.4.1.2. This could involve multiple departments within FCSM (e.g., connecting Computer and Information Sciences to other disciplines in the college).

7.4.2. Concerns about investing in this program:

7.4.2.1. Will these degrees be sought after by employers, including universities?

7.4.2.2. What market analysis has been done (or could be done) to ensure that there is interest for these programs and a need for those with these degrees?

## 8. New Business

### 8.1. Future FCSM Faculty and Staff Awards discussion

8.1.1. There are currently 11 awards offered every year.

8.1.2. The Dean is considering a proposal to transition offering each award every other year with half offered every academic year.

8.1.3. The Dean stated that scoring 11 awards every year is a lot of work and this year there were fewer nominations.

8.1.4. Concerns about opportunities for awards each year for NSF grants and promotion and tenure may be important.

8.1.5. Concerns also about staff only having 1 award opportunity each year and that perhaps some awards could also be opportunities for staff as well as faculty.

8.1.6. College Council Members are encouraged to discuss with their colleagues.

8.2. Items from the floor: None.

## 9. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Carbonaro

Recording Secretary