Minutes of the November 8, 2019 FCSM College Council Meeting

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

**Member Attendees:** Biological Sciences: Mark Bulmer, Angela Cox; Chemistry Ana-Maria Soto, Henderika van Huizen; Computer and Information Sciences: Joyram Chakraborty, Scott Hilberg; Mathematics: Yunwei Cui, MelliKate; Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences: Wendy Nelson, Pamela Lottero-Perdue; At large: Kelly Elkins (Chemistry), Elizabeth Goode (Mathematics); Undergraduate Student: Marella Schammel

**Absent:** David Vanko and Vonnie Shields (both out of town), Miracle Davis.

**Guests** Howard Kaplon (FCSM)

Chairperson Kelly Elkins called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Approval of minutes from the October 11, 2019 FCSM College Council meeting

The minutes of the October 11, 2019 meeting were approved with four abstentions.

2. Announcements and remarks from the Dean

   2.1. The Dean sent the document, Towson Emerging Themes for Campus Discussion, to College Council for preparation of discussion in next meeting. This document contains preliminary suggestions for what should be included in TU’s next Strategic Plan.

3. Announcements from the Council Chairperson

   3.1. Please read the document of Towson Emerging Themes for Campus Discussion (the emerging priorities for Towson), share it with colleagues, and collect feedback. It will be listed as a topic for discussion at December meeting.

4. Shaunna Payne Gold, Assistant Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, Presentation and Questions

   4.1. Numbers and facts: underrepresented minorities account for 42% of the undergraduate students, 48% of incoming first year students of fall 2019, and 22% of faculty. We have seen a remarkable increase in these numbers for the past seven years.

   4.2. One major mission of my job is to support faculty development in various ways pertaining to inclusion in the classroom. A menu of several types of training is being generated with a foundational module around student culture at Towson. Various training modules include, how to work with first generation college students, how to work with students with particular disabilities, how to manage a multi-generational classroom, student subcultures, creating inclusive syllabi, creating inclusive content, mentor matching, etc. This is a pilot project. Feedback is welcomed.

   4.3. Other responsibilities and accomplishments:
   
   - Created rubrics for exit interview
   - Working on the strategic diversity plan of the entire university
   - Created training for faculty searches and human resource policy on hiring process for faculty
   - Managing the Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Fellows program
   - Overhauling the Intergroup Dialogue program
5. Susan Willemin, Director, and Robyn McCray, Associate Director, Accessibility & Disability Services, Presentation and Questions.

5.1. Located in Office of Inclusion and Institutional Equity. The emphasis of ADS is to promote accessibility for students with disabilities. Nationwide students seeking accommodations are on the rise. We observe the same trend. Serve approximately 2000 students or 9% of TU students. We see an increasing number of students registering mental health as primary disability and now mental health is the number one disability registered in ADS. The problems for disabilities and the accommodations requested are changing. Modified attendance, extension on assignments, and memory aids may be approved by ADS. Parents are very involved now. ADS provides testing accommodations, classroom accommodations. ADS shifts from note taking to audio recording. Every student has a specialist. Offer referrals for private coaching and additional testing.

6. Updates from FCSM Departments

6.1. Biological Sciences: We will sequence three core courses, BIOL 200, BIOL 202, and BIOL 309. There is no prerequisite of CHEM 131 for BIOL 200. CHEM 131 will be required for BIOL 309. These changes will take place in next semester. A research symposium is scheduled on December 6th. The search for a computational biologist is ongoing and the campus interview will be in next year. A retirement party is scheduled on December 6th for Erik Scully.

6.2. Chemistry: There is an ongoing search for a clinical assistant professor.

6.3. Computer and Information Sciences: Several faculty searches are going on. We are focusing on student clubs. There six students clubs and several talks are given each week. The enrollment continues to grow. We now have over 2000 students. The doctoral program is trying to recruit students who better match with research interests of our faculty. New applicants are required to submit a research statement and teaching philosophy.

6.4. Mathematics: The regional undergraduate research conference was held on November 2nd. A new lab (Making and Modeling Lab), located in YR 315, will open on November 21st at 3:00 p.m.

6.5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences: We had a departmental meeting. The Provost participated in the meeting.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yunwei Cui

Recording Secretary