Minutes of the October 11, 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: FCSM:** David Vanko, Vonnie Shields; **Biological Sciences:** Mark Bulmer, Angela Cox; **Chemistry** Ana-Maria Soto; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Joyram Chakraborty; **Mathematics:** Yunwei Cui, Melike Kara; **Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences:** Wendy Nelson; **At large:** Kelly Elkins (Chemistry), Elizabeth Goode (Mathematics); **Undergraduate Student:** Marella Schammel

**Absent** Elizabeth Goode, Scott Hilberg, Henderika van Huizen, Pamela Lottero-Perdue, 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 September 13, 2019 FCSM College Council meeting**

The minutes of the September 13, 2019 meeting were approved with one abstention.

2. **Announcements and remarks from the Dean**
   2.1. The Hill-Lopes Scholars program has begun with 10 new Hill-Lopes scholarship students. The program aims to enable the success of women in STEM.
   2.2. Active ongoing searches: Executive Director of Entrepreneurship and Dean of Graduate Studies and Research.
   2.3. Internal searches: Directors for “Undergraduate Research” and “Competitive Fellowships and Awards”.
   2.4. Renewed efforts in the area of search committee training – diversity and inclusion.
   2.5. Departmental Diversity Action Plans – the college and departments will need to update their plans.
   2.6. Mandatory advising will start in Fall 2020, so advising holds will go on all student accounts in the fall prior to registration for Spring 2021.
   2.7. Regents’ Awards update: James Overduin (teaching), Chris Salice (scholarship), and Josh Dehlinger (mentoring) have been selected by the university-level committee to move forward to a full nomination from TU.
   2.8. Ribbon Cutting and Open House for FACET (Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson, aka FACE) is scheduled on Oct. 15, 12-2 p.m. at Cook Rm 405:
      - 12:00-12:30 – President Schatzel
      - 12:30-1:00 – hot hors d’oeuvres, beverages, cake
      - 1:00 – brief concurrent sessions on grant writing, assessment, engagement and accessibility, or online best practices
   2.9. NIH lecture on “Gender, Race, and Power in Science” will be on Oct. 31 (10-11 a.m.). Event will be livestreamed [https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=34893](https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=34893)
   2.10. New grant activity: $4.6M requested YTD, compared to $1.2M on same date FY19; 1.4M awarded YTD, compared to $1.0 on same date FY19.
3. **Announcements from the Council Chairperson**
   3.1. The benefits open enrollment period will be October 15 to November 14, 2019. The Benefits Fair is scheduled on October 25, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
   3.2. We return to mandatory advising.
   3.3. The FCSM is collecting examples of entrepreneurship initiatives and entrepreneurship research activities, so that the Dean can highlight them with the President and share them with other areas in our university.

4. **Updates from FCSM Departments**
   4.1. **Biological Sciences:** The job advertisement for a tenure track position as a computational biologist is out and the search is underway. A biology student research symposium is scheduled on December 6th, and the registration is on November 22nd. There is also a seminar scheduled on October 22nd at 3:30 p.m., by a postdoc from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology University of Maryland School of Medicine.
   4.2. **Chemistry:** There is an ongoing search for a clinical assistant professor. There is an upcoming undergraduate seminar on October 24th.
   4.3. **Computer and Information Sciences:** Multiple search committees were formed. There are 5 faculty searches going on.
   4.4. **Mathematics:** During the recent Mathematics Education Club meeting, students shared their presentations they presented at conferences. A regional undergraduate research conference will be held on November 2nd. During the Curriculum Committee meeting, people discussed about a double major in math and computer science, either math education and computer science concentration or general math and general computer science concentration. During the Policy and Procedures Committee meeting, people discussed about policies and expectations for clinical faculty.
   4.5. **Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences:** The search for a tenure track faculty in biophysics is in preparation. The search for a research support specialist (machinist) is underway.

5. **Old Business**
   5.1. **Faculty Training Opportunities:** The committee continues to seek potential training opportunities for faculty or students that are not currently available on campus. New ideas proposed include:
   - Classroom strategies, how to teach in the new science building
   - Implement peer mentoring within the classroom
   - New teaching technologies, e.g., Smart Board
   - Dealing with students in trauma
   - Requirements of TU Foundation grants (Brian DeFilippis, Executive Vice President of TU foundation)
6. **New Business**

   **6.1. Discussion about College and Department Diversity Action Plans:** The committee members are expected to reach out to their departments for ideas and thoughts about revising FCSM Diversity Action Plan, in terms of:
   - Action priorities,
   - Outcomes,
   - Responsible parties,
   - Deliverable date,
   - Link to College’s goals,
   - Methods of assessment,
   - Tracking or measurement.

   At the request of Shaunna Payne Gold, Assistant Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, the college level revision and relevant documents (both internal facing document and external facing document) are due by November 1, 2019. Following the college level work, corresponding revision of departmental Diversity Action Plans and preparation of relevant departmental documents are also required.

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yunwei Cui
Recording Secretary