

College Council Meeting Minutes
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:30 p.m., September 8, 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.

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; **Mathematics:** Jing Tian (Vice Chairperson) Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Michelle Casey, Jia-An Yan; **At Large:** Faith Weeks (Biology; Corresponding Secretary), Pamela Lottero-Perdue (PAGS; Chairperson); **Students:** Marcus Rose (Graduate); Madison Previti (Undergraduate)

Member Absent: Jinie Pak (Computer and Information Sciences)

Visitors/guests: Kelly Elkins, Cody Sandifer, Mary Stapleton (Zoom), Kristin Pinkowski, Amanda Charles (Zoom)

1. Each member of the College Council introduced themselves, sharing their name and role on the council.
2. Vote to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2023 FCSM Council meeting: 10 in favor, 3 abstain, (1 absent)
3. Guest Speakers:
 - 3.1. Cody Sandifer and Kelly Elkins, FACET Fellows - Topic: AI
 - i. Cody Sandifer – Prepared prompts for ChatGPT to demonstrate how it worked (e.g., lab report, proof derivation, teaching reflection).
 - ii. Cody Sandifer and Kelly Elkins – Facilitated a discussion with council members about AI and its use within teaching, as well as with respect to teaching and research; big idea is that AI is going to be impacting our work from this point forward – as well as the work that our students will do not only as students at TU but in their future employment.
 - iii. Kelly Elkins – Shared information about FACET, including Communities of Practice and upcoming events/workshops which can also be found here: <https://www.towson.edu/provost/initiatives/faculty-center/>.
4. Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent
 - 4.1. Food policy for meetings of faculty in development after TU being audited for use of state funds for food for faculty meetings other than special event. More details on the policy to come from Provost’s office.
 - 4.2. Enrollment data good, high enrollments for graduate

- 4.3. There is a call for a new director of TSEM program due to need for more central support. Position includes course release.
- 4.4. Work to improve search committee workflow that is simpler and clearer with new training and new SharePoint.
- 4.5. Plan to host Fall Forum in the fall, most likely December (rather than the spring like last year)
- 4.6. New PhD programs in sustainability and business analytics on hold
- 4.7. Currently not replacing Sandy Spitzer's position as STEM Education Center Director; currently reassessing needs for that position
- 5. Announcements and remarks from Associate Dean Shields
 - 5.1. Open Houses are planned for high school sophomores, juniors, and transfer students to be held at the Union.
 - i. September 30th, October 21st
 - 1) 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. need departmental reps – faculty, staff, or graduate student.
 - 2) 11 – 11:30, 11:45 – 12:15 need panelists of students, one each department and UTEACH.
 - ii. College Visits – SC 2323
 - 1) October 4th, October 11th, October 25th, November 1st
 - 2) 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. – need student panelists, tours in building.
- 6. Announcements from the Council Chairperson
 - 6.1. Reminder to Council members that we are representatives of the members of our departments—information/ideas should flow to us as representatives from our departments and from us as representatives to the departments.
 - 6.2. SharePoint will be used to store and share College Council information.
 - 6.3. We need a faculty member of the College Council to assist with the Student Ad-Hoc committee.
- 7. Highlights from FCSM Departments
 - 7.1. Biological Sciences
 - i. New chair – Petra Tsuji.
 - ii. New Faculty – Iskander Ibrahim.
 - iii. Will be searching for an Immunology/MicroBiology TT faculty member.
 - 7.2. Chemistry
 - i. Two forensic chemistry students have been invited to the international human identification conference.
 - ii. For forensic chemistry graduate students, 95% hire rate for graduates of the program within one year of graduation.

- iii. The chemistry department welcomes two new full time faculty members, Dr. Kyle Edwards (assistant professor) and Dr. Mohammed Jabbed (visiting assistant professor).
 - iv. Chemistry is conducting two full time faculty searches both currently accepting applications:
 - 1) Assistant or Associate Professor of Forensic Science
 - 2) Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry
- 7.3. Computer and Information Sciences
- i. All six tenure-track faculty positions are filled. It is good to see them all this fall. We still have one more position to fill for the next academic year.
- 7.4. Mathematics
- i. We have five new faculty members (four lectures and one TT faculty) who joined us this Fall.
 - ii. We will have an open TT position in Math Education. The search will start at the end of the year.
 - iii. We have a new chair.
- 7.5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
- i. New chair – Jennifer E. Scott.
 - ii. The department has welcomed two new tenure-track faculty, multiple lectures, and multiple new staff members as the result of last year's many searches – Sam Hulett has started as the new UEBL manager.
 - iii. No tenure-track searches this year.
8. Standing Agenda Items:
- 8.1. DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns
- i. Dean Nugent has the report created by the DEIJ task force last year.
 - ii. The DEIJ task force will meet soon.
 - iii. Email Pronunciation – Go here: <https://www.towson.edu/brand/visual-guidelines/email.html> to revise your email signature to include pronunciation.
 - iv. OIIE DEIJ Summit – Friday, November 3rd at 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. UU Ballrooms
 - v. Hill-Lopes
 - 1) Fall Seminar with Dr. Dawn Wright.
 - 2) Oceanographer, Chief Scientist, Esri.
 - a. Thursday, October 26th.
 - b. 4 p.m. Science Commons.
 - c. Check out this CBS Morning clip!
- 8.2. Senate update/communications: Senate has not met as of this meeting but will be meeting on September 11, 2023.

9. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives:

9.1. Constitution and Bylaws Work: Senate ratification update

- i. Being reviewed by Academic Senate
- ii. Vote for ratification by the Academic Senate will be on September 11th.
- iii. Will need to revise if Senate suggests revisions.
- iv. Will work on implementation this year including formation of DEIJ and STEM Education committees.

9.2. EV parking assessment (Glen Garage)

- i. Last year and this year, some faculty expressed a need more charging stations in Glen Garage
- ii. We will contact parking to see if what is happening with respect to EV charging and to see if a count of faculty EV parking needs is worthwhile.

10. New Business

10.1. University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents (BOR) Faculty Awards: Identify deserving colleagues!

- i. 2023 information is not out.
- ii. Board of Regents information is in SharePoint.
- iii. Need to recruit our faculty for these awards. (Update: USM BOR Staff awards have a nomination process later in the year; we aim to be a catalyst to support this process when the time is closer.)

10.2. Timing and process for FCSM Faculty and Staff Awards

- i. Dean Nugent said that the plan is for Fall Forum to be in December.
- ii. We will need to set forth the new guidelines for self-nomination and peer nomination.

10.3. Items from the floor

- i. Student Council formation
 - 1) Create newsletter for students.
 - 2) Will have students to vote for representatives.
 - 3) Would send general announcements (like event schedules) to students.
 - 4) Need help with the Ad Hoc committee to accomplish these goals.

11. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Carbonaro

Recording Secretary