


COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm, September 9, 2022
Kistner Conference Room, SC 4230

The FCSM College Council met in the Science Complex, Room 4230 at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Pamela Lottero-Perdue, Chairperson, presiding. An option to Zoom into the meeting was made available; two participants attended via Zoom.

Member Attendees: Interim Dean: Chris Salice; **Associate Dean:** Vonnie Shields; **Biological Sciences:** Elana Ehrlich (Recording Secretary), Anne Estes; **Chemistry:** Stephen Hancock, Nicole Carbonaro; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Jinie Pak, Yeong-Tae Song; **Mathematics:** Min Ji (Vice Chairperson), Jing Tian; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Michelle Casey, Raj Kolagani (Corresponding Secretary); **At Large:** Faith Weeks (Biology), Pamela Lottero-Perdue (PAGS; Chairperson); **Students:** Emily O'Donnell (ENVS, Graduate); Kelsey Evans (Chemistry; Undergraduate)

Absent: None

1. Member introductions
 - 1.1. Members shared their names and departments.
 - 1.2. The Chairperson Lottero-Perdue mentioned that in the future, the council may also include some staff representatives.
2. Minutes from the May 13, 2022 FCSM Council meeting were approved by 11 members present at the meeting in May; others not present abstained.
3. Announcements and remarks from the Dean and Associate Dean
 - 3.1. Dean Chris Salice did not have any announcements but offered to answer any questions or provide information in future meetings.
 - 3.2. Associate Dean Vonnie Shields shared her announcements:
 - 3.2.1. Open Houses
 - 3.2.1.1. Upcoming open houses University Union ballroom A and B on 9/30, 10/1, 10/14, 10/15.
 - 3.2.1.2. She is looking for student panelists for 11-12pm to represent Biology, Chemistry, PAGS, Math and Computer Science departments. Ideally these are more senior students. Students will make presentations and answer parent questions. There was discussion regarding incentives for students attending open houses as panelists. Vonnie states that there is some swag available but not much else.
 - 3.2.1.3. In response to idea of compensating students for volunteering to serve at Open Houses, Pam shares that for her research she uses a system through OSPR to compensate research participants using electronic gift cards via Rewards Genius/Tango. Maybe FCSM can reward participation this way?

- 3.2.1.4. Also looking for faculty and staff to staff tables from 11am-1pm. Department representatives should bring flyers. We are expecting 350 students/families to attend.
- 3.2.1.5. Need PAGS representative on undergraduate research committee.
- 4. Announcements from the Council Chairperson
 - 4.1. The College Council folder is now on SharePoint. Access was given to all members and links to the folder are working. Some members have not been able to see the folder in their SharePoint menus. Some have requested access again from Chairperson Lottero-Perdue. Lottero-Perdue will investigate issues further in an attempt to make this more user-friendly (and emailed the council with follow-up information shortly after the meeting).
 - 4.2. Reviewed goals for the year. This includes providing support to FCSM committees. There are now folders on SharePoint for each committee. The major objectives for year are to:
 - 4.2.1. Revise the FCSM Constitution and bylaws.
 - 4.2.2. Consider expanding committee membership to include staff and a DEIJ representative.
 - 4.2.3. Increase student involvement in shared governance.
- 5. Highlights from FCSM Departments (*Note: General updates are in the announcements folder in SharePoint.*)
 - 5.1. Biological Sciences is looking for a post-doctoral fellow that will transition to tenure-track faculty. This is part of a push to recruit faculty who better represent our increasingly diverse student body. Jack Shepard is the new assistant chair. We have hired instrumentation and vivarium support staff (2 positions).
 - 5.2. Chemistry hired an instrumentation specialist.
 - 5.3. Computer and Information Sciences attempted to hire 4 new faculty and were successful in hiring 2. The challenge was that 2 declined offers. The department also lost 2 faculty members who were high performers. Enrollment is increasing (2000 undergrad), doctoral enrollment is steady so lots of new adjunct faculty have been hired to fill the gaps.
 - 5.4. Mathematics lost 2 staff, hired 1 department coordinator, and is in the process of hiring additional staff.
 - 5.5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences has also had several staff changes: several newly hired temporary lecturers, hoping to search for tenure track faculty, and are also hiring an instrument support specialist. They have noticed that the new building has affected interpersonal dynamics within the department so there is a current focus on community building.
- 6. New Standing Agenda Items:
 - 6.1. DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns –
 - 6.1.1. DEIJ Task force - As announced at the Dean's welcome back, the DEIJ task force has put together a one-stop shop list of activities related to DEIJ. The QR code was shared by Michelle Casey and is located here  and in the resources folder. The goal is to increase visibility and communication of DEI work and opportunities. The committee is continuing to get feedback from the college community with the goal of writing a report to go to the incoming dean.
 - 6.1.2. Diversity Action Committee – The diversity action plan was updated by Vonnie and Denise. The committee surveyed students at the end of Spring 2022 semester. Several concerns were raised that were communicated at the Dean's welcome back, including students request that faculty use preferred pronouns, and be more inclusive in recognizing holidays that are observed by non-dominant religions.

- 6.2. Senate update/communications: The Academic Senate has not met yet this year. (First meeting is Sept 12.) Pam has a standing meeting after each AS meeting with an FCSM Senate representative to keep communication open between AS and FCSM CC .
7. Old Business: Regents Awards – Who are we encouraging? Several names were mentioned. Trying to get the word out to encourage people. Activity should have occurred in the past 3 years. We don't have official due dates yet. Last year on 9/30, the preliminary application went to the Provost's office. If approved, then a 20-page application goes to USM. There are also staff awards to keep in mind.
8. New Business
- 8.1. Dean's Search – Process update – Pam is on the search committee. The University is working with Isaacson Miller firm to create a profile. Sidd Kaza is the search chair. All departments are represented. The profile was disseminated, we are looking at candidates mid-October and semi-finalist Zoom meetings will occur in November. In-person interviews should occur the week of November 29. The goal is to have someone hired by January.
- 8.2. President's Town Hall, Oct 7 1:00 pm – We brainstormed questions for the President in small groups. The Chairperson reminded the council prior to brainstorming that the President roles and Provost roles are different, Provost is academic affairs, President oversees everything else and presents TU to the world. Pam compiled a list of questions from brainstorming. Can request questions from individual departments but needs to get to Pam by 10/3. (Note: In a follow-up email sent by Chairperson Lottero-Perdue, she requested questions by 9/23.)
- 8.3. We are exploring the idea of an FCSM Student Council. Is there a way to create one? What about a BIPOC student council? We brainstormed regarding this idea. We can start by speaking with different student associations to gauge interest, distribute a form to majors to gauge interest and topics of concern, and utilize affinity groups to get feedback/gauge interest.
- 8.4. 2022-2023 Initiative: FCSM Constitution – We will look at one section each meeting to determine what needs to be modernized.
- 8.5. Items brought to the council from faculty (updates/discussion):
- 8.5.1. Bird deaths – we are waiting for quote for a film for the glass windows
- 8.5.2. We don't have C- grades and this can disadvantage some students who are transferring in, the Academic Senate Academic Standards Committee is discussing.
- 8.5.3. Staff positions. Faculty have expressed an interest in wanting transparency regarding roles for new and existing FCSM staff positions. Interim Dean Chris Salice is in discussion with the FCSM Leadership council about this. This will help to protect staff from being overworked and allow faculty to know who to reach out to for specific issues.
- 8.5.4. Phones. Should there be phones (or other communication devices) in each classroom/research space? Some members thought that re-instating phones in research laboratories (as we had in Smith Hall) should be a priority and this issue needs immediate attention because of safety concerns and to ensure smooth and efficient operation of the facilities". We will discuss further next time.
- 8.6. Items from the floor – None; out of time.
9. A motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elana Ehrlich
Recording Secretary