Minutes of the September 14, 2018 FCSM College Council Meeting.

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

Member Attendees: FCSM: Vonnie Shields; Biological Sciences: Jacqueline Doyle, Elizabeth O’Hare; Chemistry: Ana Maria Soto, Shannon Stitzel; Computer and Information Sciences: Josh Dehlinger, Scott Hilberg; Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences: Wendy Nelson, Jennifer Scott; Mathematics: Sergiy Borodachov, Yunwei Cui; At large: Kelly Elkins (Chemistry), Elizabeth Goode (Mathematics); Student Representatives: Stephen Blama (Graduate Student, Physics), Ian Gilbert (Undergraduate Student, Chemistry and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics)

Special Guests: Clare Muhoro (Chemistry, FCSM Representative on Provost Search Committee)

Chairperson Jennifer Scott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. **Special Guest: Clare Muhoro**

   Clare Muhoro, the FCSM representative on the Provost Search Committee, provided an update on the search. President Schatzel convened a committee of 14 members in May of 2018. The search committee is chaired by Dr. Shohreh Kaynama, Dean of the College of Business and Economics. An advertisement was posted on August 15, 2018, and it will be displayed until October 15, 2018. The search is currently open and internal nominations also can be submitted through the email address indicated on the provost website. The initial compliance review of candidates will be done by a national executive search consulting firm, Witt/Kieffer. The committee has already met twice, and they plan to meet a third time in September to discuss interview questions. The committee plans to meet at the end of October to select ten candidates to recommend to the president. They plan to conduct off-site interviews with the candidates around the middle of November and invite four candidates to campus. There will be opportunities to meet the candidates during the on-campus interviews. The president would like to have the search completed by the end of the calendar year and for the new provost to start by the Spring of 2019 semester.

   Clare indicated that the desired leadership profile for this executive vice president for academic affairs position is on the provost website, and she emphasized that the successful candidate will be a strong leader who is second in command in the university. Updates on the provost search could be found at the provost website: [https://www.towson.edu/provost/search/](https://www.towson.edu/provost/search/)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

   There was one typographical correction to the minutes of the May 11, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved as amended, with 3 abstentions.

3. **Announcements and Remarks from the Acting Dean**

   3.1. The FCSM Annual Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony will be on December 7, 2018 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm in the Minnegan Room. The deadline for electronic nominations is on October 21, 2018. Nominations should be sent by email to Amanda Charles (agcharles@towson.edu).

   3.2. TU logo rebranding: The TU logo is currently being modified. There will be a website (Agora CX) where any items containing the TU logo could be purchased. The website will allow for purchases from different vendors. It was commented that one possible reason for the rebranding is that the old logo did not digitize well.
3.3. The FCSM Newsletter will be reinstated. Department Chairs will be gathering information in the near future. The current newsletter is taking longer than normal because the new branding requires the use of specific software for any publication that is to be disseminated. Anything that goes on the website needs to fit the rebranding guidelines.

3.4. The new residence hall at 10 West is up and running. The lease with Marriott expired at the beginning of July 2018; and the building is now used for a residence hall, primarily for transfer students.

3.5. Capital Campaign: President Schatzel would like to see 100% faculty participation. The goal is to demonstrate to big donors that we believe in ourselves and that 100% of faculty members donate to Towson. Faculty can choose specific areas in the foundation for their contributions.

3.6. Nominations are being accepted for a FCSM faculty athletic representative. The position involves travel and course release.

3.7. The Career Center has set up a new station in the second floor of Smith Hall. There will be two representatives (career coaches) assigned to the Fisher College, one will be in Smith Hall and one in the Career Center. Among other things, they will help students find internal and external internship opportunities.

3.8. Nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service Award are due on October 5, 2018. This award honors outstanding faculty who have been at Towson University for more than 20 years. Nominations should be submitted to Janet Delaney.

3.9. Building Heat Update: Rene Florendo (Head of Maintenance) and Gino Rinaudo (Building Maintenance Chief) have given some faculty AC units. They have requested that any complaint or suggestion be given in written form (rather than verbally), by filling out work order requests.

3.10. There will be a seminar on Selective Assessment Technologies on September 28 and 29, 2018. Interested faculty should register by September 20, 2018.

3.11. Courageous Conversations: A whole day event with the aim of fostering a more inclusive TU environment will take place on September 28, 2018.

3.12. The Winter Commencement Ceremony for the Fisher College and the College of Liberal Arts is planned for December 19, 2018 at 3:00 pm.

3.13. The deadline for proposals for the Undergraduate Research Committee is on Friday, September 21, 2018. Proposals for OURCI from FCSM students should also be submitted by this deadline.

3.14. Nominations for the Goldwater Scholarship are due in December. This is an outside organization, but a committee at Towson reviews the applications and nominates up to four students to the Goldwater organization. This scholarship is based strictly on merit; typical recipients have average GPAs of 3.96, are already involved in research and are interested in attending graduate school. More information can be found in the Honors College website.

3.15. There are several graduate (Sept. 20) and undergraduate (Oct. 26, Oct. 27, Nov. 9, Nov. 10) Open Houses planned for the Fall of 2018. Faculty volunteers to represent departments in these academic fairs are needed.

3.16. The deadline for Annual Assessments is on November 1, 2018. Angel Kumchev is the contact person.

3.17. President Schatzel would like to see an increase in extramural funding to Towson University. She encourages faculty to continue to apply for grants to increase the research portfolio at TU.

3.18. The new Fisher Endowed Chairs are Wendy Nelson from the Department of Physics Astronomy and Geosciences and Melike Kara from the Department of Mathematics.
4. **Announcements from the Council Chairperson**

4.1. The second round of the NSF-funded Faculty Workload and Rewards project is currently underway. Interested participants had the opportunity to join the project during the summer (by the August 1, 2018 deadline).

5. **Update from the University Senate:** Last year, Harald Beck briefed the Council on the Senate activities as he was a member of both the University Senate and the College Council. Since no one on the FCSM College Council is a current member of the Senate this year, a Senate member may be appointed as liaison and will brief the College Council Chair about the Senate activities.

6. **Updates from FCSM Departments:** Council members updated on the activities of their corresponding departments.

6.1. **Biological Sciences:** Two new Clinical Faculty joined the department this fall. The department is currently working on renovating their curriculum, including changes in introductory courses and some upper level courses.

6.2. **Chemistry:** Two new faculty members joined the department this fall. The department is currently conducting two additional faculty searches (one for Forensic Chemistry and one for Organic Chemistry). Two additional searches for staff members are also expected as the accounting associate and one of the administrative assistants are leaving the department.

6.3. **Computer and Information Sciences:** The department passed the 2000 student mark, including 200 new students this semester. A new faculty member specializing in Data Science joined the department this fall. The department is currently working on the reaccreditation of some of their programs and on a brand new accreditation in cyber security. The department is undergoing two program reviews: one at the department level and one to get designated by NSA as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operation; the department seeks to be one of only 20 schools with that designation.

6.4. **Mathematics:** Two new assistant professors and one lecturer joined the department this Fall. The department is one of only 17 departments designated as a Center of Actuarial Excellence; this designation is reapproved every 5 years, and a reviewing team will visit the department in September. The department has two new graduate programs – one in Actuary Science and one in Predictive Analytics. One more program is under preparation.

6.5. **Physics, Astronomy and Geosciences:** Four lecturers joined the department this Fall. One replacement tenure-track faculty search is underway, and the department is also looking to replace a lecturer who is leaving. The department’s current chair will be serving as the coordinator for the move into new science building. The department is casting votes for the election of a chairperson.

7. **Old Business**

7.1. **Regents Award:** Council members reached out to potential candidates for the Regents Awards during the Summer and early Fall semesters. Some of the faculty who have expressed interest in being nominated for the Regents Awards include Rommel Miranda (University and Professional Service), Alex Storrs (Business and Community Outreach), Michelle Snyder (Teaching), John Sivey (Scholarship), and Tatyana Sorokina and Diana Cheng (Mentoring).
7.2. **FCSM Undergraduate Research Grants**: During the last council meeting the Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences department requested information about the success rates in FCSM grants from different departments. The awardees from each department are available in the FCSM website, but the department is interested in learning the success rate broken down by department. Acting Dean Shields is planning to send this information to the Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences department. Additional discussion included:

- These grants are not intended to support faculty, they are intended to support FCSM students. Hence, students from other colleges who work with FCSM faculty are not eligible to apply.
- Students working in research projects that don’t use supplies (for example CIS and MATH majors) do not apply to these grants, but they could apply if the guidelines were changed to include stipends. It was pointed out, however, that these grants are small ($500) and would not be able to fund a lot of hours. It was also pointed out that including stipends to encourage CIS and MATH students to apply would result in more students applying for the limited number of available FCSM grants, thus decreasing opportunities for students working in wet labs who cannot do any research without supplies.
- Council members were requested to ask their corresponding departments about the idea of stipends and inclusion of non-FCSM students working with FCSM faculty. This is an important area because student success was ranked very high in the funding survey sent last year and because support from the University Research & Creative Inquiry Committee has decreased.

8. **New Business**

8.1. **OURCI Research Impact Awards**: In order to be more equitable and distribute awards more evenly throughout the university, the Undergraduate Research & Creative Inquiry Committee has changed its structure. They issue $2000 to every college for undergraduate research (which in the Fisher college gets added to the pool of money for undergraduate research grants), and the remaining funds are given directly to students in the form of $1000 awards. The top three students from each college get awards from OURCI and a fourth student from a given college may get an award if they are selected as OURCI awardees from the Honors College. The funds offered by OURCI can be used for stipends, travel funds, materials or a combination of these. In the Fisher college students submit grants for OURCI through the FCSM Undergraduate Research Committee. The Committee ranks the top three, top four and top five undergraduate research grants and forwards these names to OURCI.

Council members pointed out some issues with this model, including that students from CIS, MATH and Science Education don’t typically apply for FCSM research grants, and that the deadline for the college awards is one week earlier than the OURCI deadline. Members from the FCSM undergraduate research committee explained that OURCI does not read FCSM proposals, and that it is not feasible for the FCSM committee to receive a second batch of proposals and re-rank them for OURCI. It was also pointed out that the new scholarship model of the OURCI awards could present problems for students who have federal assistance.

8.2. **College Council guests for AY2018-19**: Some suggestions for potential guest speakers include:

- Creative Services (new logo)
- VP for Administration and Finance, Benjamin Lowenthal
- VP for Legal Affairs, Sara Slaff (patents, IP issues)
- Director Foundation Relations, Geannine Callaghan (apply for foundation grants)
- Rommel Miranda or Clare Muhoro (ART Document Revision Committee)
- Jeff Simpson (OURCI)
- Nancy Dufau (Sponsored Programs & Research)
- Benefits – College representative in HR
- Dave Schaffer – preparations for the move
- Office of Inclusion & Institutional Equity
- DSS person facilitate learning (although it may be better if DSS visits individual departments)
8.3. **Diversity speaker/workshop:** Jennifer Scott suggested that Dr. Louis Strolger from Space Telescope Science Institute could visit Towson University to give a talk that would emphasize the value of diversity in Science. Acting Dean Shields also suggested inviting a group from Johns Hopkins University to conduct a diversity workshop at Towson. It may be possible to get some support from the TU-REP Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant (from the Department of Biological Sciences) to support these events. Council members should ask their corresponding departments if there is interest in having a diversity speaker/workshop.

9. **Adjournment.**
   The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ana Maria Soto
Recording Secretary