Minutes of the September 8, 2017 FCSM College Council Meeting.

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

Member Attendees: FCSM: David Vanko; Biological Sciences: Jacqueline Doyle, Harald Beck; Chemistry: Ann-Maria Soto, Kelly Elkins, Shuhua Ma; Computer and Information Sciences: Michael McGuire; Josh Dehlinger; Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences: Parviz Ghavamian, Jennifer Scott; Mathematics: Yunwei Cui, Sergiy Borodachov

Absentees: (All notified in advance) Elizabeth O’Hare, Graciella Gamboa (Undergraduate Representative)

Chairperson Michael McGuire called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes
   The minutes of the May 12, 2017 meeting were approved with 3 abstentions.

2. Announcements from the Dean.
   2.1. COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS: Fostering a more inclusive Towson, September 29, 2017; 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., University Union, Chesapeake Rooms. Keynote speaker is from Harvard University. Registration required; faculty and staff may come and go. “This conference will provide concrete strategies to open up conversations in our classrooms around race, ethnic identity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political leanings, and immigration status. Deans will be at the conference.

3. Remarks from the Dean.
   3.1. Welcome back to everyone. College Council is a shared-governance body established through the Towson University Senate. As such, it may deliberate on any shared-governance issue. It is as relevant and as important as we want it to be. It can serve as a vehicle to broadcast information, a sounding board for ideas coming from the dean’s office and the chairs’ council, and a forum for ideas to be proposed by the faculty. It is like a House of Representatives. If anyone has an issue to address, please communicate that to the Executive Committee of the College Council to place it on the agenda. Executive Committee meets the Friday before each Council meeting.

   3.2. Welcome to new faculty and staff members: Kathryn Nesbitt (Chemistry), Anne Estes (Biology), Katherine Sayers (Biology), Aisha Ali-Gombe (CIS), Lin Deng (CIS), Kristin Frank (Math), Kim Corum (Math), Jing Tian (Math), Tevis Tsai (PAGs), Jennifer Scott (Operations manager, Biology), Alissa Petroff (Operations manager, Chemistry), Andrea Chenowith (Program coordinator, SET).

   3.3. FCSM Top Three Focus areas for 2017-2020:
      ▪ Student Success and Assessment
      ▪ Research and Scholarship
      ▪ Diversity and Inclusion

   3.4. New Science building update: bids are coming in now, for the November 15th Board of Public Works meeting; then construction can begin. Contract approval is scheduled on November 15. Fencing will start on November 15

   3.5. World Bank-funded African Centers of Excellence. We are exploring collaboration with Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, an ACE in “Science, Technology & Knowledge.” They are particularly interested, at first, in Computer Engineering and Cybersecurity, but other topics could be engaged down the road. Faculty and student exchanges are possible, along with joint research. FCSM’s champion for this exploratory project is Clare Muhoro in Chemistry, who is experienced in scientific development projects in Africa. Prof. Song from Computer science suggested that he might be able to help organize an IEEE conference to be held at OAU. These efforts could positively impact diversity and inclusion in the FCSM. One additional idea would be to take a group of students on a minimester trip there.
3.6. Report on President Schatzel 1-on-1 meeting with the dean – the topics discussed were

- FCSM growth in student credit hours – consistent growth for 10 years unmatched by any other college
- FCSM has added 24 lecturers during the same time that it has added only 1 tenure-track position
- FCSM has lost 3 staff positions to budget reductions
- FCSM’s research, scholarship and grants records
- New programs:
  - Combined BS/MS in Physics with Applied Physics
  - Post-baccalaureate certificate in Health Information Technology in the MS in Applied Information Technology program
  - Post-baccalaureate certificate in Computer Forensics in the MS in Applied Information Technology program
  - Dual degree program in Actuarial Science and Risk Management with Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics, China
- Accreditations:
  - ABET – Computer Science
  - FEPAC – Forensic Chemistry (BS) and Forensic Science (MS)
  - Amer. Chem. Soc. – Chemistry (BS)
  - Center of Actuarial Excellence
  - NSA Center of Academic Excellence in Cyberoperations

President Schatzel’s address to the community yesterday highlighted the FCSM very nicely. She gave a 23 minute speech. A recording is available (see today’s T3 news item, which contains a link to the video).

3.7 From the FCSM Success Log:

- August 17, 2017: Ten strong Towson University students applied for STEM scholarships provided to member institutions of the Maryland Space Grant Consortium. The following students were selected to receive awards:
  - Joshua Alexander, Computer Science (continuing awardee from 2016-17)
  - Colin Hamill, Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
  - Meaghan McDonald, Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
  - Kareem Land, Computer Science
- May 1, 2017: Dr. Keith Reber’s paper with undergraduate student James Mease, “Total Synthesis of Clerobungin A via a Cascade Cyclization Reaction,” was the subject of a recent online Organic Chemistry highlights: http://www.organic-chemistry.org/Highlights/2017/10April.shtm
- April 27, 2017: Dr. Sharlene Roberson, the FCSM STEM Program Director, was selected for the 2017 University Diversity and Inclusion Award for the staff category. She was recognized for her support of underrepresented minority students (and others) in the Towson Opportunities in STEM (TOPS) and STEM Residential Learning Community.

4. Discussion following the remarks from the Dean

4.1. New building programmed for more faculty and staff. We have to start staffing now.
4.2. No new SAPs added over the last four years except for lecturers
5. Remarks from the Council Chairperson
5.1. Welcome to new council members and members who are filling in
5.2. Member introductions
5.3. Graduate Student Member - Dawn Myers from Applied Mathematics.
5.4. Student representatives are still needed for the FCSM Scholarship Committee and the FCSM Curriculum Committee.
5.5. FCSM Undergraduate Research Grants are due on September 22nd.

6. Updates from FCSM Departments
Members from each FCSM department updated the Council on departmental news and activities.
6.1. Biology: A $1M grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute was received; the goal is to transform undergraduate science education to be more inclusive and to incorporate more authentic research experiences. The program has a goal of beginning in Biology and then spreading to Chemistry and PAGS and to YR7800. Laura Gough made a presentation about the grant recently to the Board of Regents.
6.2. Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences: PAGs is in the process of hiring a new faculty member in Science Education. The undergraduate curriculum was discussed during the Physics and Astronomy Departmental retreat. A number of presentations by students were made this past month. The 7 year program review was successful.
6.3. Computer & Information Sciences: Two new tenure-track faculty were hired. Enrollments are continuing to increase with 500 new freshman and transfer students. ABET accreditation for Computer Science Department and accreditation in cyber security (new program) are in progress. The combined BS/MS program in Computer Science is awaiting approval by the Graduate School.
6.4. Mathematics: Hired one new tenure-track faculty in Applied Mathematics and two new tenure-track faculty in Mathematics Education. A Departmental Retreat was held where many important questions were discussed, such as ways of making faculty more interested in undergraduate research, merit criteria discussion, and others. Dean Vanko made a presentation during the retreat about the new Science building.
6.5. Chemistry: The Chemistry Department hired a new tenure-track faculty, new accounts manager, and one more new position. Received a grant to bring a distinguished research lecturer.

7. Old Business
7.1. Nominations are due for the Board of Regents award. Internal process: submit CV, statement, and a letter from the Department Chair. Nominations are considered in the following categories: teaching, public service, service, mentoring, innovation, and scholarship. It was suggested that the following faculty be urged to submit the stage 1 application: Pamela Lottero-Purdue PAGS – teaching, Vera Smolyaninova PAGS – scholarship, Alex Storr PAGS – outreach, Sidd Kaza CIS – teaching, John Sivey Chemistry – scholarship, Clare Muhoro Chemistry - scholarship. Deadline Sep 28. Nominations are open to tenure-track faculty with 5 or more years of service. It was suggested that Council members think of other names. It also was suggested that a link to USM website where nomination requirements are listed be posted.
7.2. Call for FCSM College award nominations.

8. New Business
8.1. FCSM Outstanding Lecturer Award. From the Chairs council. Idea is recognizing as part of FCSM awards. Call for nominations.
Question: (Harald Beck) Are peer and student evaluations among required documents?
Suggestion: Some lecturers have excellent record of involving students. Add to award description “Exemplary scholarship, service, and/or mentoring outside the classroom”.
The following motion was made and seconded: The FCSM College Council recommended to the Dean of the FCSM that an additional award - "Outstanding Lecturer" - with the appropriate description to be approved.

Motion was unanimously approved.

8.2. Update on Diversity Action Committee. Postponed to the next meeting (since Dr. Vonnie Shields left early on the day of the Council).

8.3. Discussion of Evaluation and Promotion of Lecturers.

   Problem: no College-wide method of formally promoting or giving raises to lecturers. No Senior Lecturer now. Evaluation procedures are currently not consistent. Executive committee to deliberate on what they would see as a form good of evaluating.

   Assignment: Each department must tell during the next College Council meeting how many lecturers they have and how they promote them. Do they have senior lecturers? This will be put together and presented to the Dean as best practices.

Comment from PAGS: Lecturers go through the same merit evaluation and they do not fit and not clear how to adjust.

Comment from Chemistry: Right now there is merit or no merit only for lecturers.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.