COLLEGE COUNCIL MEETING
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:30 p.m., October 9, 2026
SC 4230

Attending:
Biological Sciences: David Hearn and Vonnie Shields (Chairperson); **Chemistry & Forensic Science:** Cynthia Zeller; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Weixian Liao (via Zoom) and Nam Nguyen; **Mathematics:** Vince Guingona; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Parviz Ghavamian (Vice-Chairperson) and Alan Jackson (Co-Secretary); **Teaching Professors and Clinical Faculty:** Alexis Nobleman; **STEM Education:** Kristin Frank; **Staff:** Kara Berger, Richard Patterson and Jennifer Streb (Co-secretary, via Zoom); **Students:** Caraline Davis, (MSFS)

Non-Voting, Ex-Officio:
Dean: Matt Nugent; **Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Success:** Chris Salice; **Building Manager:** Josh Wilhide

Visitors:
Howard Kaplon, William Shipley

Apologies for absence:
Mathematics: Kimberly Corum; **Inclusive Student Success:** Denise Hayman; **Students:** Jake Shaheen (Math/Comp Sci., UG); **Associate Dean for Teaching & Student Success:** Ming Tomayko

1. Approval of minutes from the September 11th meeting, 2026 FCSM Council meeting. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

2. Announcements and remarks from the Dean
   A. The new PhD program in Forensics has been approved by Senate and is now with USM.
   B. The next STEM for All talk will take place on 5th of November at 5:30 p.m. in SC 2226, given with George Guise from PAGS, title: The Long-Gone Ocean Beneath Baltimore.
   C. There is a proposal coming from the Provost to make use of Distinguished University Professor title/status. This would be available ten years after Full Professor status for faculty nationally/internationally recognized in their field.
   D. Provost leadership fellows program launched this year. Applications are open until 1st of November. This is intended for faculty interested in supporting/developing new ideas and initiatives at the Campus-wide level.
   E. President Ginsberg is re-launching the process of conferring honorary degrees. At some point there will be a process to nominate people for honorary degrees. Stay tuned for further information.

3. Announcements from the Associate Deans
   A. We now have a new FCSM professional advisor, Beverly Evans. If you see her around, please say hello
   B. Letter of Recommendation writing workshop on Wednesday 14th of October, 3-4 p.m. in SC 4230 with Mary Devadas, Dave Schaefer and Ellen Hondrogiannis.
   C. Meditation in Planetarium is moving to Wednesdays: the first one will be 21st of October.
   D. Almost 40 undergraduate research grant proposals have been submitted. These are now being reviewed.

E. OURCI Fall symposium will take place on 1st of December.
F. FACET and Cook Library professional development opportunities – there are quite a lot available, take a look at the web pages and see if there is something that looks interesting.
G. Associate Dean Salice and the FCSM graduate program directors met with the new Dean of the College of Graduate Studies (CGS), Dr. Laila Richman, to discuss several CGS initiatives. Among those was interest in exploring use of the Centralized Application Service (CAS) for graduate admission applications which is akin to the common application for undergraduate admission.

4. Announcements from the College Council Chair and Vice-Chair
   A. The revised FCSM Constitution and Bylaws have been ratified by the Senate
   B. The University PTRM committee is working on ART document revisions. More on this to come as things develop.
   C. New initiative for engagement in local community – see document on SharePoint
   D. Also see SharePoint site for other highlights.

5. Highlights from FCSM Departments
   A. From Josh: The #1 Elevator is working! There was much rejoicing.
   B. From Biology: Faculty candidates currently visiting campus, look out for announcements of talks.
   C. From Mathematics: Currently in earlier stages of search for assistant teaching faculty.
   D. From CIS: Faculty search is ongoing.
   E. From Chemistry: Candidates coming in last two weeks of October.
   F. From PAGS: Still looking for new electronics shop manager.

6. Updates

7. Old Business
   A. Mission and Vision statement: The new version will be uploaded to the website soon.

8. Visit from Jimmy Thren, Assistant Dean and Director of Student Outreach & Support, plus SOS Staff. (presentation followed by open question period).
   A. Getting to know the students: there are more issues with not wanting to come to class. Seeing some things reverting to pre-covid trends – division between students who are not involved with any social things and very involved academically vs students who are very socially involved but academically disconnected.
   B. For purely academic things (e.g. not coming to class with no explanation; failing exams) go to **SSC Navigate** and flag there. For anything that has a non-academic dimension, feel free to send an SOS.
   C. Distinction between SOS and counseling center is that counselling center is confidential – will not reach out regarding concerns sent to them, cannot disclose, SOS is private, not confidential – will reach out, can disclose where relevant.
   D. SOS and Student Accountability & Restorative Practices (SARP) are connected, so concerns that cross both can be submitted to either and the appropriate response will be managed.
   E. Students are engaging with SOS more. Response rate rose from 36% 5 years ago when SOS first set up to 84% now.

F. New addition from Registrar's office when students withdraw from classes after the add/drop period. They now receive warning messages checking that they are sure, and if it would drop them below full-time, they receive another message telling them to contact financial aid.

9. New Business
   A. TSEM classes: There are none currently offered by FCSM. A few are on the books, but none have been offered for several years. Dean Nugent will be meeting with Provost's office to learn more about requirements and initiating discussions about whether any can be revived or new ones developed.
   B. Window cleaning: This has been brought up several times. There is currently nothing in the budget for it. Could there be? Should there be? Doing the full building is quite expensive, but there may be options for more targeted cleaning of specific problem areas. Dean Nugent will speak to Facilities.

10. Adjournment. Adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr Alan Jackson and Jennifer Streb, Co-Secretaries