

College Council Meeting Minutes
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:30 p.m., October 20, 2023
Via Zoom

The FCSM College Council met over Zoom at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Jing Tian, Vice Chairperson, presiding.

Member Attendees: **Dean:** Matthew Nugent; **Biological Sciences:** Daniel Caetano; **Chemistry:** Shannon Stitzel; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Yeong-Tae Song; Jinie Pak; **Mathematics:** Jing Tian (Vice Chairperson); Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Michelle Casey, Jia-An Yan; **At Large:** Faith Weeks (Biology; Corresponding Secretary); **Students:** Marcus Rose (Graduate); Madison Previti (Undergraduate)

Member Absent: Vonnie Shields (Associate Dean); Elana Ehrlich (Biological Sciences); Pamela Lottero-Perdue (PAGS; Chairperson); Nicole Carbonaro (Chemistry; Recording Secretary)

Visitors/guests: Kristin Pinkowski, Josh Wilhide, Mary Stapleton

1. Vote to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2023 FCSM Council Meeting: 8 approve, 1 abstain, 2 absent
2. Announcements from the Council Vice Chairperson
 - 2.1. None
3. Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent
 - 3.1. Faculty and staff awards
 - 3.1.1. Encourage everyone to nominate themselves or their colleagues.
 - 3.1.2. Nominations due November 1st
 - 3.1.3. Announce awardees at the Fall Forum on December 8th.
 - 3.2. Food policy for meetings has been revised.
 - 3.2.1. Student events may purchase food using funds:
<https://www.towson.edu/about/administration/policies/08-11-20-catering-meal-coupon-policy.html>
 - 3.3. Final Fall enrollment
 - 3.3.1. Enrollment dropped for three straight years.
 - 3.3.2. This year has gone back up. Just over 3,700 undergraduate majors in FCSM. 4,200 with graduate student majors.
 - 3.3.2.1. Highest enrollment of all the colleges on campus.
 - 3.3.3. Slight concern
 - 3.3.3.1. Past four years, retention rate dropped from 87% to 82%.
 - 3.3.3.2. Need to encourage everyone to ensure students feel included and successful here, so they stay here.

4. Highlights from FCSM Departments
 - 4.1. Biological Sciences
 - 4.1.1. None
 - 4.2. Chemistry
 - 4.2.1. Forensic and Organic Tenure Track Faculty searches continue.
 - 4.3. Computer and Information Sciences
 - 4.3.1. Doctoral program can use the term PhD instead of Doctor of Science from this semester on.
 - 4.4. Mathematics
 - 4.4.1. Just had a successful site visit from the Center of Actuarial Science.
 - 4.5. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
 - 4.5.1. Going through external program review and working on self-study documents.
5. Standing Agenda Items:
 - 5.1. DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns
 - 5.1.1. DEI Education team renamed to the Department of Inclusive Excellence Education and Support (IEES).
 - 5.1.1.1. Includes Brian Jara, Adrian Battle-Marston, and two new additional staff members who will focus on dialogue and hate/bias education.
 - 5.1.2. OIIE DEIJ Summit – Friday, November 3rd at 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. UU Ballrooms.
 - 5.1.3. Hill-Lopes
 - 5.1.3.1. Fall Seminar with Dr. Dawn Wright, Oceanographer, Chief Scientist, Esri. Thursday, October 26th, 4 p.m. Science Commons.
 - 5.1.4. OIIE Yearly Climate Survey Emailed to everyone.
 - 5.2. Senate updates/communications:
 - 5.2.1. No updates from Senate
 - 5.2.2. Pam met with their chair. Look forward to new version of student evaluations coming from the Teaching Evaluation Task Force. The College Council may be asked to provide feedback.
6. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives:
 - 6.1. Constitution and Bylaws Work
 - 6.1.1. Final version in our SharePoint
 - 6.2. Elections for the STEM Education Committee and DEIJ Committee for Spring 2024
 - 6.3. EV (Electric Vehicle) Parking assessment (Glen Garage)
 - 6.3.1. Response from Parking Services: Started October 9th, 2023, you must be charging when parked in those spots, and you can only charge for a maximum of 4 hours. After those 4 hours, you must park elsewhere.
7. New Business
 - 7.1. Election Committee
 - 7.1.1. Pam received an email from the election committee to ask suggestions on an issue of the nomination policy: Language for FCSM election policy is vague, and due to low participation rates often had a tie for the top numbers. The college council members have a discussion on this.

- 7.1.2. Motion: The FCSM Elections Committee to clarify language within the policy so that in the example of nominations results provided in what follows, individuals A, B, and C would be included on the election ballot but individuals D and beyond would not.

Example nominations results:

A 12 votes

B 12 votes

C 12 votes

D 9 votes

E 9 votes

F 9 votes

G 9 votes

H 6 votes

Motion Seconded by Michelle Casey; 10 approvals.

- 7.2. Survey for strengths and weaknesses for FCSM improvement.

7.2.1. See SharePoint folder for Draft, which Pam created possible questions for anonymous feedback to the Dean.

7.2.1.1. Short survey (3-4 questions at most).

7.2.1.2. Results only shared with Dean.

7.2.2. Need more discussion as council found issues with the current questions, including being vague, maybe need mixed method questions, or a simple comment box for the Dean.

7.2.2.1. Who compiles the answers? Should we break down to specifics (education, physical resources, faculty, staff, needs, etc.).

7.2.2.2. Student council may want to think about having a student version.

7.2.3. Items from the Floor.

7.2.3.1. Itinerary of Student Council.

7.2.3.1.1. Working to be ready for Spring 2024.

7.2.3.1.2. Need more direct lines of communication.

7.2.3.2. Discussion about a possible Ph.D. program (for R2): in Applied Science.

8. Adjournment (2:47 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Weeks

Corresponding Secretary