

College Council Meeting Minutes
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:00 pm, February 14, 2025

2024-2025 Member Attendees Present

Biological Sciences: Daniel Caetano (Co-Secretary); **Chemistry:** Nicole Carbonaro (Vice-Chairperson) and Shannon Stitzel; **Computer and Information Sciences:** Jinie Pak and Nam Nguyen; **Mathematics:** Jing Tian and Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Parviz Ghavamian (Chairperson) and Jia-An Yan; **Lecturers and Clinical Faculty:** Miriam Parnes; **Inclusive Student Success:** Nichole Mason; **Staff:** Kara Berger and Hannah Berry; **Students:** Jaelyn McCracken (Chemistry; Undergraduate), Miracle Eze (Biology, Graduate)

Non-Voting, Ex-Officio:

Dean: Matthew Nugent; **Associate Deans:** Ming Tomayko and Chris Salice.

Building Manager: Josh Wilhide.

Visitors/Guests: William Shipley (Zoom) and Robert Karp.

1. Approval of the minutes from the December 13, 2024, FCSM Council meeting.
The minutes were approved with unanimous consent.
2. Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent.
 - A. Dean Nugent highlighted that the FCSM college and the Dean's office are committed to ensuring that everyone feels included and welcome to all activities. He also emphasized that FCSM is focused on following Towson University mission and vision.
 - B. The target number for enrollment was 18,030 for Spring 2025, and we registered 18,076. We hit and exceeded our enrollment target. The president wants to increase the number of incoming freshmen by 100 to 200 for Fall 2025.
 - C. Towson University set a record for applications for Fall 2025 (21,620).
 - D. FCSM undergraduate admissions are up 4% and graduate student applications are up by 48%. The enrollment reports also suggest the quality of the students is also increasing.
 - E. New Associate Dean Chris Salice will be working on improving our graduate programs and helping foster research activities in the college.
 - F. Towson University is now considered a Research University. This is a new Carnegie Research Activity Designation, one step below the R2 category.
 - G. Towson University is on track for the goal of achieving the R2 category in 2027.
 - H. The Biological Sciences department showed an increase in applications and admissions this year.
 - I. The Computer and Information Sciences department experienced a decrease in applications, but it is still doing well.
 - J. Re-enrollment was approximately 93%. This is similar to last year (94%).
 - K. The Governor submitted a proposed budget with a 5% cut to the University System of Maryland.
 - L. FCSM is doing well in research. Last year the faculty and staff submitted 41 grant proposals (a total of \$9 million requested) and this year 54 were submitted (\$14 million requested). This year the FCSM has been awarded \$3.7 million, which is an increase compared to last year and sets a record for the college.
 - M. Research expenditure so far in the year is about \$3.6 million and last year was about \$3.2 million.

3. Announcements and remarks from the Associate Dean Ming Tomayko.
 - A. The FCSM book club will take place on Thursday, February 20th.
 - B. On Thursday (February 20th), FCSM will also host the first Effective Assessment workshop led by Cindy Ghent. The following Friday (February 28th) will be another session of the workshop lead by Erik Silldorff.
 - C. Sunset meditation at the Planetarium is next Friday (February 21st).
 - D. Amy Levine from Professional Development will offer a workshop on how to provide feedback to peers on February 28th.
 - E. Request to increase the number of faculty at the Spring commencement.
4. Announcements from Associate Dean Chris Salice
 - A. Working to develop workshop activities to increase scholarship in the college.
 - B. The main goal is to reduce barriers and to create opportunities.
 - C. Foster novel opportunities for collaboration, likely working with the School of Emerging Technologies.
 - D. Reminder to check TU today and look for opportunities there.
5. Announcements from the Council Chairperson
 - A. Reminder that some College Council members are up to the end of their terms. Please contact your departments to elect new members.
6. Presentation from Robert Karp of Academic Advising on use of SSC tool for student advising
 - A. Robert Karp explained how student progress reports and the new ad-hoc reports work.
7. Highlights from FCSM Departments
 - A. Biological Sciences
 - 1) No updates at this time.
 - B. Chemistry
 - 1) Two new faculty: Filipa Simão (Assistant Professor, Forensic Chemistry) and Stan Presolski (Assistant Professor, Organic Chemistry).
 - 2) A new study abroad program has been approved for students to earn 3 credits for CHEM 301 or FRSC 695 in the United Kingdom in the Minimester 2026 with Dr. Kelly Elkins.
 - C. Computer and Information Sciences
 - 1) There are active searches for 4 new tenure-track faculty.
 - D. Mathematics
 - 1) The departmental colloquium: Our first colloquium took place on February 13th from 12:30-1:45 p.m. The speaker was George Mohler from Boston University.
 - 2) Upcoming seminars: (1) Sebastian Calvo—Monday, February 24th, snacks at 3:30 p.m. with the talk at 4 p.m.; (2) Banghee So—Monday, April 7th.
 - 3) The Annual Mid-Atlantic Research Exchange for undergraduate Mathematicians, hosted by John Hopkins University, will take place on March 30, 2025. The deadline to register is March 9, 2025.
 - E. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
 - 1) Dr. Abdul Naseer Malmi-Kakkada (Naseer) accepted our offer and will join our department as a tenure-track faculty member in August.
 - 2) Two staff members, Jeff Klupt and Mark Edmonston will retire at the end of this semester.
 - F. Lecturers and Clinical Faculty
 - 1) The survey is still open for lecturers to provide feedback.
 - G. STEM Education
 - 1) No updates.

- H. Inclusive Student Success
 - 1) Hosting tabling events.
 - 2) The hope is to get students involved so they are aware of all their options.
- I. Staff
 - 1) No updates.
- J. Students (Undergraduate, Graduate)
 - 1) Students shared concerns about the current political situation of the country.
- 8. Standing Agenda Items:
 - A. Senate update/communications
 - 1) Removal of Chairs from the department PTR meetings: The Academic Senate requested that the Provost Office send all full-time faculty 4 documents: UPTRM opinion, COC letter, AAUP response, and language of change in procedure on PTR.
- 9. Ongoing Issues/Initiatives/Old Business:
 - A. Lecturer surveys – tweaks and suggestions (Carbonaro).
 - 1) The survey has accumulated approximately 60 responses so far.
 - 2) Reminder to communicate to the Chairs to help spread the survey.
 - 3) Reminder that Clinical Faculty are not supposed to respond to this survey.
 - 4) Discussion about the inclusion of Clinical Faculty, including an issue that it would be possible to identify the individuals because of the relatively small number of Clinical Faculty.
- 10. New Business
 - A. Items from the floor
 - 1) None
- 11. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Caetano and Kristin Frank (Co-Secretaries).