

College Council Meeting Minutes  
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS  
1:30–3:30 p.m., October 10, 2025

**1. Attendance**

A. 2025–2026 Member Attendees Present

**Biological Sciences:** Daniel Caetano and Vonnie Shields; **Chemistry & Forensic Science:** Nicole Carbonaro (Vice-Chairperson) and Shannon Stitzel (Chairperson); **Computer & Information Sciences:** Weixan Liao, Nam Nguyen; **Mathematics & STEM Education:** Kimberly Corum and Na Zhang; **Physics, Astronomy, & Geosciences:** Alan Jackson and James Overduin; **Teaching Professors and Clinical Faculty:** Miriam Parnes; **Student Success:** Kristin Pinkowski (Co-secretary); **Staff:** Kara Berger, Hannah Berry, Jennifer Streb (Co-secretary); **Students:** Kamiya Plummer (Biology; Undergraduate), Urja Desai (Chemistry & Forensic Science; Graduate).

B. Non-Voting, Ex-Officio Members Present

**Dean** Matt Nugent; **Associate Dean for Teaching & Student Success:** Ming Tomayko; **Building Manager:** Josh Wilhide.

C. Visitors

Howard Kaplon, Cody Sandifer.

D. Absent

**Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Success:** Chris Salice.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the September 12, 2025, FCSM Council meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

**3. Announcements and Remarks from the Office of the Dean:**

A. Announcements from Dean Matt Nugent

1) The Dean shared that the provost has asked all deans to consider a pilot version of a 3-year degree for undergraduate students, in addition to the traditional 4-year degree. While some schools around the country do this already, Provost Perreault is considering a 3-year degree that would take advantage of the 7-week cycle in order for students to reach a reasonable amount of credit hours, followed by an additional fourth year that would earn a graduate degree. In this early stage, the Dean and others are looking at what degree programs are amenable to this 3-year idea.

B. Announcements from Associate Dean Chris Salice

1) Announcements were shared on behalf of the Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Success, including additional Fall semester workshops. These include AI Tools for Research & Workflow (October 24 from 2-3 p.m. in SC 4230); Community of Practice for CUREs (Cook Library 507 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.); Maintaining Effective Communication with Students (November 7 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. in either Cook Library or 10 West)

- 2) Faculty are encouraged to inform Chris Salice of any stories that highlight research.
  - 3) A new maildrop has been created for the FCSM Associate Deans. Emails will go out with announcements and events from [fcsm-associatedeans@towson.edu](mailto:fcsm-associatedeans@towson.edu).
- C. Announcements from Associate Dean Ming Tomayko
- 1) Associate Dean for Teaching & Student Success shared several upcoming opportunities including a Workshop for Giving and Receiving Feedback to Colleagues (October 16 from 12-1 p.m. in SC 4230); Career Center Field Trip to Millipore Sigma (October 17 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.); Planetarium Meditation (October 17 at Noon in the Planetarium); Community Time (October 21 from 2-3 p.m. in YR 208 and October 30 from 2-3 p.m. in SC 5220); Inclusive Teaching Book Club (October 23 and November 6 from 2:15-3:15 p.m. in SC 5220).
  - 2) As a follow-up to their workshop on best instructional practices, Erik Sildorff and Hervé Nganguia have opened their classroom doors for observation. Faculty can stop by Erik's Anatomy & Physiology course on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. in SC 5250 and Hervé's Calculus II course on Mondays/Wednesdays from 12-2:20 p.m. in YR 218. Folks are welcome to drop in, observe, and stay as long as you want.
  - 3) Instructors are reminded to be working on their accessible course design. All digital documents need to be accessible by April 24, 2026. FACET and USM have training opportunities.
  - 4) The final fall Open House will take place on October 24 at the University Union.
  - 5) Faculty who are interested in participating in the Winter Commencement are able to use regalia made available by the Office of the Provost.
  - 6) January 21 will be the College Welcome Back for the Spring Semester.
  - 7) The FCSM Instagram account has been revived with the help of our 10 college student ambassadors. Like, share and follow [@towsonu\\_sciencemath](https://www.instagram.com/towsonu_sciencemath).
- D. Announcements from the FCSM Building Manager
- 1) The FCSM Building Manager shared that Research Way will be closed on October 17 from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. to install new mechanical equipment on the roof of the 7800 building.

#### **4. Highlights from FCSM Departments & Constituencies**

##### **A. Biological Sciences**

- 1) The Biology Department invites applications for a full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Biological Sciences. The preferred start date is August 2026.
- 2) Departmental Seminar will be held on Monday, October 13 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in SC 5250 featuring Professor Hugo Fort from Universidad de la República de Uruguay entitled "Evolution in Biology and Economics: Fitness Dynamics of SARS-COV-2 and Markets."

##### **B. Chemistry & Forensic Science**

- 1) Through support from TU President's Office, FCSM was awarded funds at the end of the 2025 fiscal year to acquire a new benchtop NMR (installed in 4329), a replacement HPLC (installed in 5331B), and a replacement Nanodrop Spectrophotometer (to be installed in 4326).
- 2) The Chemistry & Forensic Science Department will host several upcoming seminars (unless otherwise noted, all seminars start at 11:00 a.m. in SC 4230).

- a) October 23: Raspet Student Seminar featuring Amie Yansane (PI: Stephen Hancock)
- b) November 6: Raspet Student Seminar featuring Lucas Hoffman (PI: John Sivey)
- c) November 13: Jean Dreyfus Faculty Seminar featuring Prof. Karthis Manthirram, Caltech (Host: Mary Devadas)
- d) The search for additional organic chemistry faculty is still proceeding.

#### C. Mathematics

- 1) The Mathematics Department has the following colloquia and seminars scheduled (unless otherwise noted, all seminars are held 4-5 p.m. in YR 320 with refreshments beginning at 3:30 p.m.):
  - a) October 21 at 3 p.m. via Zoom – Florian Luca of Stellenbosch University: “Large Zeros of Linear Recurrence Sequences”
  - b) October 21 – Dr. Bimal Sinha, UMBC Department of Mathematics and Statistics: “An Introduction to Statistical Meta-Analysis with an application.”
  - c) October 22 – Miriam Parnes
  - d) November 3 – Kimberly Corum (Sabbatical Talk)
  - e) November 17 – Vince Guingona (Sabbatical Talk)

#### D. Physics, Astronomy & Geosciences

- 1) TU Alum Ahmed Elraishidy has been hired as the new Laboratory and Computer Technology Manager. He started on October 1.
- 2) [Two recent alums were featured in a recent TU Today article.](#)
- 3) This year’s Observe the Moon event had 120 guests, which broke the existing Astronomy Outreach record for the entire year for total visitors, which is now 5172.

#### E. STEM Education

- 1) Dean Mullen is looking for help identifying retired Maryland science teachers who might like to volunteer at the Science Center. Please reach out to Dean Mullen if you have folks in mind.
- 2) The TU Athletics Department is hosting its annual TU STEM Day Basketball Game on December 4. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Sarah Mamaril at [smamaril@towson.edu](mailto:smamaril@towson.edu) to be connected to the event organizers.
- 3) STEM Unbound will be hosted at TU on March 18. This event will bring approximately 200 middle school students from Baltimore City Schools to FCSM. This one-day event is a partnership between USM and BD Biosciences. The event will include interactive stations and workshops, as well as opportunities for faculty and staff to be involved. For more information, please reach out to Dean Nugent.

#### F. Student Success

- 1) The FCSM Student Success constituency met the week of October 6 to speak with Kristin and Associate Deans Salice and Tomayko. The group discussed establishing a communication structure, shared thoughts, concerns, and announcements, as well as ideas for future gatherings. Associate Dean Salice introduced the use of the TeamUp calendar, which will be used for future planning and collaboration.
- 2) The Tutoring and Learning STEM Accountability group is going well. Over 100 students applied to join and around 60 were accepted. Students have been meeting regularly to engage in body doubling and the Pomodoro Technique, with the support of a learning coach.

- 3) The Hill-Lopes Scholars Program will be hosting its Fall Seminar on October 23 at 4 p.m. in SC 2226 featuring Distinguished Professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Materials Science and Engineering at the University of California Los Angeles, Sarah Tolbert who will present "Using Chemistry and Nanoscale Structure to Improve the Performance of Batteries." For more information, and to RSVP visit [towson.edu/HillLopesEvents](http://towson.edu/HillLopesEvents).
- 4) Hill-Lopes Scholar and FCSM Ambassador Chinenye Ofor (MB3 '27) was selected to be one of this year's TedxTowsonU speakers. The event will be held on November 5 at 6 p.m. in the UU Ballrooms.
- 5) The Hill-Lopes Scholars Program will hold an information session on November 7 at 6 p.m. in SC 2125.

## **5. Standing Announcements and Updates**

- A. Announcements from the Council Chairperson Shannon Stitzel
  - 1) Academic Senate updates were shared. The Teaching Evaluation Task Force shared its recommendations, which included a revised student evaluation form with 13 streamlined questions, guidelines for peer evaluation, and incorporation of faculty self-reflections. There is now a Well-Being committee that will now have a representative.
- B. Updates from Science Complex Building Committee Representative Nicole Carbonaro
  - 1) The Science Complex has acquired 5 new display cases for additional "Science on Display" opportunities in the building. Departments, individuals and groups will have the opportunity to apply with their ideas, to be approved by the Science Complex Building Committee. The Dean is working on a Microsoft Form for folks to apply with their ideas. Faculty and staff are encouraged to check out Michelle Casey's Geology display case on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for an idea of format.

## **6. Old Business**

- A. Factors for Student Success in FCSM Courses
  - 1) The summary of Student Success strategies and ideas brainstormed at the September meeting was shared. Council members were given the opportunity to add to the list.
  - 2) A forms link will be created for disbursement among FCSM departments and constituencies, with two weeks for folks to respond.
  - 3) Student representatives will begin to brainstorm the best ways to communicate with fellow students and disburse information. The Council also began to discuss who/what students should be surveyed for their thoughts (e.g., just FCSM majors vs. all students in high DFW rate courses)
- B. Updating the Elections Procedures Document
  - 1) FCSM Elections Committee Chair Cody Sandifer visited the October Council meeting. He shared that the Elections document has not been updated since 1999. Many procedures have been followed for decades without official documentation.
  - 2) Revisions for the election procedures document were proposed, including updating recent changes to the university (e.g., changing "lecturers" to "teaching professors"). The Council was given time to review Cody's proposed changes and ask questions.

- 3) A motion was made by Nicole Carbonaro to vote on the new election procedures. Daniel Caetano seconded.
- 4) The new Election Procedures Document will be voted on during the next Council meeting in November, per the current College Council Bylaws.
- 5) Should another FCSM Standing Committee get approved, the Election Procedures Document will be updated again with this information.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. FCSM College Constitution Updates**

- 1) The Council identified areas of needed clarification and updated language in the current Constitution. Members reviewed the current Constitution to start making suggestions for edits and updates, such as descriptions for eligibility and language that align with current university priorities.
- 2) The Council discussed removing the list of FCSM committees from the Constitution and instead listing them in the bylaws, in order to allow the constitution to adapt to changes over time without the need to constantly revise and vote.
- 3) The goal is to have the proposed Constitution out quickly to the FCSM community for a vote in order to allow time for confirmation by the Academic Senate. The Council will then take time to iron out the bylaws, which are just voted on by the Council.

### **B. Possible New FCSM Standing Committee**

- 1) Preliminary ideas were shared about new FCSM standing committee names and objectives. Members will go back to their departments and areas to solicit feedback and ideas for the Council to consider.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m. with a motion by Nicole Carbonaro and seconded by Daniel Caetano

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Pinkowski, Co-Secretary

Jennifer Streb, Co-Secretary