College Council Meeting Minutes
FISHER COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
1:30 – 3:00 p.m., December 8, 2023

Member Attendees: Dean: Matthew Nugent; **Biological Sciences:** Daniel Caetano; Elana Ehrlich; **Chemistry:** Shannon Stitzel; Nicole Carbonaro (Recording Secretary) **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); Pam Lottero-Perdue (PAGS, Chair) **Students:** Marcus Rose (Graduate); Madison Previti (Undergraduate)

Member Absent: Vonnie Shields (Associate Dean)

Visitors/guests: Kristin Pinkowski, Mary Stapleton

1. Vote to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2023, FCSM Council Meeting: 13 approve; 1 absent.
2. Announcements from the Council Chairperson.
   2.1. The Elections committee has asked for our help to have more direction on election policies for the council. We will discuss this more in new business.
3. Announcements and remarks from Dean Nugent.
   3.1. Update on the new Ph.D. in sustainability. It is on hold. The current plan is in the Provost Office and we will continue forward in Spring to get MHEC to approve. The goal is to have it active for the end of the summer.
   3.2. RPAC open call for funding to get a STEM summer camp up and running. It will be an intense 1-week camp before the semester for those that failed or barely passed. There will be 1 biology version and 1 chemistry version. It will focus on study skills, review of basic materials, and understanding to hopefully lead to more success in the future. Funding will be for the first three years. The preproposal was selected to move forward, the Dean answered some questions about it, then the full proposal will move forward. Either way, some version of this will hopefully be running for struggling students.
   3.3. End of semester email will have a link to share comments with the Dean. They will go straight to him and be anonymous. He encourages everyone to say what works, what needs attention, any challenges or strengths – anything is game. Please tell colleagues that this will remain open, and he genuinely wants to know what we think.
   3.4. His first semester had few issues as the faculty and staff are doing great.
4. Highlights from FCSM Departments.
   4.1. Years ago in the college council, departments would not only share events and good news but also "pain points" – struggles in our departments to see if others had similar issues or solutions. Help us collaborate and share strategies. Some of the below highlights may be announcements or pain points.
   4.2. Biological Sciences
      4.2.1. Biology really wants help with advising, especially the Degree Completion Plans.
         4.2.1.1. Response from Dean:
            4.2.1.1.1. Not announced yet but hired a professional to replace Denise McGill.
            4.2.1.1.2. He talked to the Provost about trying to expand advising to share the load, and while she supports the concept, there are no immediate resources for it. He would like to see an advising office with full-time paid staff to help students.

4.2.1.2. Other pain points from Biological Sciences:
    4.2.1.2.1. Incentives for participating in faculty professional development.
    4.2.1.2.2. Having a dedicated greenhouse and collections manager(s).
    4.2.1.2.3. Coordinators for larger courses.
        4.2.1.2.3.1. Hard to find adjuncts sometimes, and the pay is terrible.
        4.2.1.2.3.2. May help to increase adjunct overload pay to retain them.
    4.2.1.2.4. Compensation for teaching larger class sizes.
    4.2.1.2.5. Increase the number of TA positions to allow full time faculty to teach.
    4.2.1.2.6. Workload issues.
    4.2.1.2.7. Expectations for those that don't teach over the summer, especially responding to email.
    4.2.1.2.8. Support for research.
        4.2.1.2.8.1. Course releases, summer salary to help bridge funding, help getting grants.
    4.2.1.2.9. Complete pain point list is on SharePoint.

4.3. Chemistry
  4.3.1. Would like to see more communication between colleges and departments with advising, especially when transitioning between different colleges.
  4.3.2. No time to get to pedagogy and often on the back burner. Don't have time to spend on bettering teaching or discussing teaching.

4.4. Computer and Information Sciences.
  4.4.1. Search is ongoing.
  4.4.2. Advising help.
    4.4.2.1. Have a student advising hub with trained students to help others with Degree Completion Plans since they have been through it before. Computer and Information Sciences department funded.
    4.4.2.2. Hard with some students that just want to remove the hold and say they don't need anything. Many don't care.

4.5. Mathematics
  4.5.1. Interviews for a new mathematics education position will begin in early spring.

4.6. Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
  4.6.1. Going through external program review and working on self-study documents.
  4.6.2. Book club will meet in the spring, and anyone can join. Email Michelle Casey to join or be in the loop.
  4.6.3. Pain points.
    4.6.3.1. Workload.
    4.6.3.2. Stratus.
        4.6.3.2.1. Travel process, time to complete.
        4.6.3.2.2. Lag time to purchase equipment.
    4.6.3.3. Many instructional rooms: Touch screens to turn on system are directly behind the door and hit the professor in the back of the head. Awful location.

4.7. Overall pain points
  4.7.1. Worth discussing on the council as we can decide what we can/should fix.
  4.7.2. Our collective could help understand issues and bring new ideas and solutions.
  4.7.3. Things we can't fix, can be sent to the Dean as it is important for the office to hear.

5. Standing Agenda Items:
   5.1. Lots of elections are coming up.
      5.1.1. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) committee, start nominations in late February/March to be ready by May.
   5.2. DEIJ actions, opportunities, issues, and concerns.
      5.2.1. None
   5.3. Senate updates/communications:
      5.3.1. Posted in Executive committee notes.
         5.3.1.1. TU has the lowest crime rate within the USM – a lot lower.
         5.3.1.2. No parking fee raises (via Vice-president Steve Jones).
            5.3.1.2.1. The State won't pay for that, and we needed to pay debt from covid times when no funds came in. Finally in the black.
            5.3.1.2.2. Dual degree MB3/PharmD.
               5.3.1.2.2.1. PharmD doesn't require a bachelor's degree, just specific courses.
               5.3.1.2.2.2. Want a program with 3 years here then 1st year PharmD counts with the undergrad.
               5.3.1.2.2.3. Mapped out what courses to be taken in agreement with certain schools.
               5.3.1.2.2.4. Students would get a bachelor's degree from TU and then continue to the PharmD, which would attract those interested in the degree and give them a solid background.
               5.3.1.2.2.5. Senate approved through the MB3 program.
   5.4. Ad hoc student councils
      5.4.1. Still working on recruiting representation.
      5.4.2. Advertising on the big screen and through depts.
      5.4.3. The undergraduate council is seeking additional participants in December and planning to meet in January or early February to plan spring semester events.
   5.5. New Ph.D.
      5.5.1. Campus has two PhD programs that ran into objections from Morgan State and others.
         5.5.1.1. The State has put together a task force to look at MHEC and its approval process; will give recommendations on how to improve the process.
         5.5.1.2. In the spring, want to move forward to appeal or negotiate with Morgan State with the sustainability PhD then move to Business Analytics degree.
         5.5.1.3. Other new PhD programs.
            5.5.1.3.1. The Provost in interested in having discussions, but no push for more right now as the system for getting them created and approved is changing.
            5.5.1.3.2. For sake of the council, good discussion time but not at the stage to make recommendations for new programs.
            5.5.1.3.3. Passionate faculty can create ad hoc committees that want to think about them.
6. New Business
   6.1. Feedback about Evaluations
      6.1.1. Academic senate has a subcommittee called the Faculty Evaluation Task Force.
         6.1.1.1. Worked for years to think about evaluation documents and process.
            6.1.1.1.1. End of semester forms and process.

      6.1.1.1.2.   Peer observation of faculty forms and process.

    6.1.1.2. In November, received these forms from the task force with data, why they made certain decisions, and asked for feedback from us.

      6.1.1.2.1.   Sent to all six college councils so that those councils can send to all faculty for their feedback on what needs changes and differences between the colleges, then synthesize data and report back to academic senate by March 8th.

        6.1.1.2.1.1. We only have a meeting in February, so we need to be quick.

        6.1.1.2.1.2. FCSM College Council Chairperson Pamela Lottero-Perdue will give quick overviews and extract the information, but we need to encourage faculty to give feedback.

        6.1.1.2.1.3. The Executive committee will see the drafts, and then bring them to the council for final feedback.

 6.2. Elections committee

  6.2.1. As getting ready to run elections, need the policy to be clearer (see SharePoint file: Vote for Elections Committee).

   6.2.1.1. If voting for 1 position, need the top 2 people from the nominations.

   6.2.1.2. If voting for 2 people on the final ballot, need 4 from nominations.

   6.2.1.3. If voting for 3 people, need 6 from nominations.

    6.2.1.3.1. Always have double the amount voting for or as many as we have if less than double the needed number.

    6.2.1.3.2. Unless there is a tie, then that policy kicks in.

   6.2.1.4. This will need to be explained so that we know we need more nominations and not just the normal process. Clear directions will be needed when voting occurs.

  6.2.2. Motion to approve this as policy: Motion to approve (13 approvals).

 6.3. From the floor

  6.3.1. Madison: would like students to be allowed to use the science complex for community building activities.

  6.3.2. Jia-An: should have incentives for faculty to serve in the commencement.

7. Adjournment 2:50 p.m. (due to Fall Forum)

Respectfully submitted,

Faith Weeks
Corresponding Secretary