Temple University
College of Science and Technology
Board of Visitors Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 21, 2016

Board attendees

Dr. Magi Abou-Gharbia
Dr. Joseph Allegra
Dr. Barry Arkles
Mr. Albert Brown
Dr. Paul Curcillo
Dr. Madeleine Joullie
Mr. Jay Novik
Dr. Alleen Rothbard
Mrs. Seda Tarzian

Staff attendees

Gregory Fornia, CST Director of Communications
Grace Hershman, Director of CST Post Baccalaureate Programs
Michael L. Klein, FRS, CST Dean
Robert Levis, CST Senior Associate Dean
Mia Luehrmann, CST Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
Michael Masucci, Temple University Vice President for Research Administration
David Miller, CST Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs
Benjamin Seibold, CST Associate Professor of Mathematics
Susan Varnum, CST Associate Dean for Science Education
John R. Walker, CST Associate Vice Dean

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Dean Michael L. Klein, FRS.

Special Reports
Faculty recruitment update – Michael Klein
New Pre-Health Post-Baccalaureate Program – Grace Hershman and Robert Levis
Selected research – Benjamin Seibold
Professional Science Master’s update – Susan Varnum
University Research Overview – Michele Masucci
Undergraduate program changes – Mia Luehrmann
Development and Alumni Affairs – David Miller and John Walker

PowerPoint presentations for special reports are available at cst.temple.edu/BOV
Discussion

Faculty recruitment update
Michael L. Klein

Dean Klein presented an overview of CST’s faculty recruiting efforts, stressing the college is looking for researchers who can impact CST as a whole rather than just individual departments. Neuroscience continues to be an area that needs new faculty. Thirty-nine faculty members have been hired since Dean Klein began his tenure, and five faculty members are being hired this year. The emphasis is now on bringing in researchers at the assistant and associate professor levels.

Investments in faculty recruiting are paying off. Temple’s face to the world, regarding the strength of research, is changing and improving.

A Board member asked about the occupancy rate in the Science Education and Research Center (SERC).

Dean Klein responded that SERC is ‘maxed out’ due to the space needs of CST’s productive researchers.

A Board member asked about the size of CST’s budget.

Dean Klein responded that CST’s operating budget is $100 million, and that the college earned $28 million in research awards, which means the college is third among Temple entities in the amount of research grants, behind the Temple University School of Medicine (TUSM) and Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Pre-health Post-baccalaureate
Grace Herschman and Robert Levis

Staff provided an overview of the new Pre-health Post-baccalaureate program, which has the potential to reach 300 students and generate $10 million in yearly income. Staff provided information on how CST’s pre-health program differs from competing programs including TUSM’s program, especially in the areas of MCAT prep, tutoring and advising and its inclusion of students hoping to enter veterinary, dental, physician assistant and other health professions.

A Board member asked if TUSM’s program offered conditional acceptance to students enrolled in its post-baccalaureate program. Staff shared that it does, but that CST’s program does offer early acceptance.
A Board member asked if the money generated by the post-baccalaureate program stays within CST.

Staff shared that 50 percent of the revenue stays within CST, which is a higher percentage than more traditional graduate programs.

University research overview
Michele Masucci

Dr. Masucci presented an overview of Temple’s rise in research rankings and research expenditures. One highlight, Google citations, is impacted directly by faculty at CST; 10 of the top 20 highest cited Temple researchers hail from CST. The university has hired researchers in very strategic areas, such as genomics, computational and molecular and medical, to improve research metrics and outcomes.

Undergraduate program changes
Mia Luehrmann

Dr. Luehrmann presented information on CST’s three new data science undergraduate programs that will be introduced this fall. Temple University is encouraging schools and colleges to introduce more narrowly tailored majors, and CST is attracting students who are interested in more ‘complicated’ majors.

A Board member asked what are the incremental costs of introducing new majors.

Dr. Luehrmann shared that costs for introducing new majors are relatively small because CST already has the faculty that can teach in these areas.

A Board member inquired about the university’s process for introducing new majors. Staff replied that all new majors are filtered through the Office of the Provost and then ultimately go before the Temple Board of Trustees.

A Board member suggested that the Data Science: Genomics majors, at least in name, seemed too narrowly focused.

A Board member shared thoughts on the need to increase resources for research infrastructure such as instrumentation. Government resources for technology and instrumentation are decreasing. While instrumentation is expensive, but without it scientists are ineffective. Universities need special funding to keep pace with technology and instrumentation so that undergraduates will have access to scientific tools.
Several Board members agreed, and one Board member suggested that Temple’s upcoming fundraising campaign should specifically include scientific instrumentation as one of the line items. Another Board member suggested CST start a fund for donors to give specifically for instrumentation needs. Several Board members agreed with this approach.

The meeting was then paused for lunch, where discussion then resumed.

Development and alumni affairs

*David Miller and John Walker*

Staff presented results from the 2016 CST Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign: 33% participation; 125 donors (from a pool of 373 employees) and $65,000 raised.

A Board member stated that a 100 percent participation rate should be the goal and another stressed the importance of reaching out to junior faculty.

A Board member inquired about named lectureships, such as the Daniel Swern lecture.

The Board discussed how best to fund a Swern lecture series, including reaching out to former Swern lab members and crosschecking them against Temple’s “wealth database.”

Undergraduate program

*Mia Luehrmann*

Dr. Luehrmann discussed CST’s four-year, five-year and six-year graduation rates, and how they relate to incoming freshman SAT math scores. Lower math scores are associated with lower rates of CST graduation among students. The college is exploring options, such as a pre-CST program or ‘school’ within the college, for those students who have low math scores and are more likely to not graduate in a STEM field.

The Board determined this subject should be included for discussion at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Dean Michael L. Klein, FRS at 1:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Walker, Esq.
Associate Vice Dean