Temple University
College of Science and Technology
Board of Visitors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 20, 2017

Board attendees

Dr. Magid Abou-Gharbia
Dr. Joseph Allegra
Mr. Albert Brown
Dr. Paul Curcillo
Dr. Stanley Lefkowitz
Dr. Madeleine Joullie
Mr. Jay Novik
Mrs. Seda Tarzian

Staff attendees

Gregory Fornia, CST Director of Communications
Michael L. Klein, FRS, CST Dean
Sudhir Kumar, Laura H. Carnell Professor and iGEM Director
Robert Levis, CST Senior Associate Dean
Michael Lawlor, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Affairs
David Miller, CST Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs
Stephen Nappi, Associate Vice President for Technology Commercialization
Susan Varnum, CST Associate Dean for Science Education
Evelyn Vleck, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Affairs

The meeting was called to order at 8:50AM by Dean Michael L. Klein, FRS.

Special Reports
State of the college – Michael Klein
New Pre-Health Post-Baccalaureate program – Robert Levis
Technology commercialization – Stephen Nappi
Grant Chapman, PolyCeramX
Professional Science Master’s and STEM update – Susan Varnum
Undergraduate program changes – Michael Lawlor and Evelyn Vleck
Development and alumni affairs – David Miller

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

State of the college

*Michael L. Klein, FRS*

Dean Klein presented an overview of CST’s student enrollment numbers, stressing the college is experiencing a strong undergraduate increases of 12 percent over last year. Graduate enrollment is also up.

Credit hours also rose over last year, positively impacting revenue. Professional Science Master’s degree programs provide important revenue. A new scientific writing PSM has been introduced, with Dean Klein acknowledging the impact of Board Member Ira Lawrence’s PSM suggestions in the previous Board meeting.

Dean Klein mentioned successful faculty recruiting efforts and the expected grant expenditures of more than $25 million for FY17. An additional $3.25 million in expenditures came to the college through Temple University’s Office of Research.

Members asked Dean Klein about the various Temple University ‘taxes’ that are imposed on the college, such as paying for space and overhead. The Dean listed several university financial challenges: increasing salaries so CST can retain great faculty; additional university funding for Undergraduate Research Program; funding for a microscopy facility.

The Dean outlined the college’s goals for faculty recruiting, which are to replace the 5-10 faculty members who are retiring over the next 5 years.

A Board member asked if the Dean was overall pleased from “an academic standpoint.” The Dean responded “yes!”

A Board member noted that CST has 35 percent more students than the College of Liberal Arts, but 50 percent less faculty.

The Board discussed the impact of modest financial aid packages on Temple’s overall enrollment, which declined slightly last year. A Board member asked if CST could offer its own financial aid in addition to Temple’s. A staff member replied that this is not possible.
Pre-health post-baccalaureate
Robert Levis

Staff provided an overview of progress for the Pre-health Post-baccalaureate program, which received more than 200 applicants in its first year. Applicants topped 262 in FY17. Staff stressed that the program offers heavy MCAT preparation, which sets it apart from rivals.

Professional Science Master’s degree and STEM programs
Susan Varnum

Staff introduced a new feature of CST’s new Professional Science Master’s programs; a 4 +1 option that offers undergraduates a quicker way to complete the two degrees.

Board members discussed teacher certification in Pennsylvania and how that impacts TUteach and if TUteach could be offered in a 4 +1 format.

Staff also presented a review of CST’s STEM education efforts. TUteach currently has 160 students, with discussion proceeding for an international component.

A Board member asked about the impact of the Temple Option students. Staff replied that the number of students taking the Temple Option, where they do not submit SAT scores but submit self-reflective short-answers to a few specially designed, open-ended questions, is still small and mainly clustered in the College of Liberal Arts.

Technology commercialization at Temple University
Stephen Nappi

Staff discussed Temple’s successful but fledgling efforts to support tech transfer and commercialization. Investment in tech commercialization and business development was approximately $1 million in FY16, generating $1.5 in revenue and $15 million in revenue over the past 5 years.

The Board agreed that these investments will take time to pay off. A Board member asked, “What is the limiting factor?” Staff replied “people” to facilitate contracts.

Grant Chapman then presented on the start-up PolyCeramX, a company which uses battery technology developed by CST faculty members Stephanie Wunder and Michael Zdilla.
Research overview

Robert Levis

Staff presented an overview of research and faculty hiring. Research expenditures would likely hit nearly $30 million in FY17. One area that the college is doing well in is traumatic brain injury (TBI), with money from US Army, PA CURE and from Temple’s Office of Research. In additional to TBI, the college’s major investments will be in microscopy and data science.

A Board member asked how many faculty are retiring. Approximately fifteen are retiring and the college is losing several to competing institutions.

The Dean stressed that it is difficult for the college to raise a faculty member’s salary; CST must have permission from the university and Board of Trustee approval.

Development and alumni affairs

David Miller

Staff presented fundraising results from FY16 and the current FY17. For FY16, the college reached 115 percent of goal for $1,355,014. The FY17 goal is $3,032,502, with the college at $1,267,333 year-to-date.

Staff presented results from the CST Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign: 31% participation; 125 contributions and $73,384 raised.

A Board member suggested that funding for facilities should be at the top of the fundraising priorities list.

General discussion

A Board member suggested that the Board of Visitors should be expanded by 5 to 10 individuals, to provide a better representation of CST’s alumni and friends.

A Board member suggested that the meetings would be ‘stimulated’ with new members. Another Board member seconded the idea of bringing in ‘outsiders.’ Members suggested the types of individuals needed: a high school teacher, a pharmaceutical executive, someone in financial investments.
A Board member suggested that a member of CST’s Alumni Board be invited to join the Board of Visitors.

A Board member stated that “we know the issues, we know the progress” and that we should feel “good about where CST and Temple are” but “we need to take it to the next level” and we “need new people to do that.”

Board members should think about potential individuals and email these names directly to Dean Klein.

A Board member asked what is the purpose of the Board. Discussion stressed that it is as a valuable advisory role for the Dean. There is a fundraising component, but that is only part of the duties.

A Board member stated that his experience is that only about 25 percent of a Board meeting should be presentations; there should be more discussion. Members wondered if there should be separate meetings for presentations and then discussion.

A Board member asked if it was still a possibility to have a joint Board of Visitors and Alumni Board meeting.

A Board member expressed concern for the organic chemistry program. The program must be strengthened with better faculty hiring and increased salary for the new lab supervisor.

The meeting was adjourned by Dean Michael L. Klein, FRS at 12:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Fornia
Director of Communications