The CST Collegial Assembly was called to order at 2:00 PM by Dean Klein. 137 faculty (FT and PT) and staff members were in attendance.

CST Committee items
Associate Dean Allen Nicholson gave a status report on the nomination processes for membership on the 2021-22 Dean’s Advisory Committee, and the Student Appeal & Grievance Committee. Informational emails to the FT faculty listserves were delivered earlier this week, and the nomination windows close at the end of the day, May 3. The Dean will review the nominees and make the selections. Memberships on the other CST committees will be handled in separate processes, to be announced. An email for the call for nominations to serve as Representative Faculty Senators will be sent out, with information. The College has 17 representative faculty senator positions available, and there are 5 CST faculty currently serving as representative faculty senators.

Graduate Program Items
Associate Dean Richard Souvenir presented a set of proposed changes to graduate programs. This included an array change to the PSM Program in Cyber Defense and Information Assurance; an array change to the Graduate Certificate program in Cyber Defense and Information Assurance; and a restructuring of the Graduate Certificate Program in Information Science and Technology. The documents presenting the proposed changes were posted on the CST Faculty Affairs website, prior to the Collegial Assembly. Following the presentation of each proposal, a vote for approval was held using the zoom poll reporting. All three programs were approved, without dissenting votes. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program changes will take effect in Fall 2021.

State of the College
Dean Klein gave a State of the College presentation, with a special focus on the COVID-19 pandemic, immunizations, and return-to-campus planning for the Fall 2021 semester. A powerpoint presentation provided a current look at the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. with a focus on trends in Pennsylvania, and the broadened availability of immunizations to anyone over 16 who works in Philadelphia. The Dean encouraged everyone to be immunized if they have not done so already. Temple’s goal is to have 80% of classes offered in-person. More information will be provided in a roadmap for returning to campus for the staff and for faculty. A comment from a faculty member noted the challenge in finding room size adequate to teach classes with proper physical distancing.

The Dean presented and gave kudos to a number of CST faculty who won university awards for their accomplishments in teaching and research. Chemistry Professor Ann Valentine won a Lindback Award for Teaching, Carl Williams (CIS) received a Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Instruction Award, and Daniel Szyld (Math) and Shohreh Amini (Biology) each received a Faculty Senate Outstanding Faculty Service Award.
The Dean introduced to the Assembly the incumbent Chair and incumbent Vice Chair of Chemistry (Ann Valentine and Vincent Voelz, respectively), and the incumbent Chair and incumbent Vice Chair of Physics (Bernd Surrow and Adrienne Ruszinsky, respectively). The Dean also announced that Jamie Payton will be continuing as Chair of the Department of Computer & Information Sciences, and that Eugene Kwatny would be continuing as the Department Vice Chair.

The Dean invited the Department Chairs to give presentations on accomplishments of faculty in their departments, and other items. Dr. Sanders (Biology) highlighted the restructuring of the undergraduate programs in Biology, in particular at the introductory level, as an effort to enhance retention. Nicholas Davatzes (EES) remarked on the Environmental Sciences program in CST and its growing importance. Dr. Davatzes also mentioned the retirement of departmental administrative assistant Shelah Cox after 45 years at Temple. Dr. Strongin (Chemistry) described the accomplishments of several of his faculty, and successful in-person instruction this semester. CIS Department Chair Jamie Payton highlighted the accomplishment of Professor Mindy Shi as a coauthor of a Science article on the 20th anniversary of the complete annotation of the human genome. Math Department Chair Irina Mitrea commented on accomplishments of several mathematics faculty and cited a symposium held in honor of Professor Gerardo Mendoza’s contributions to Mathematics. Physics Vice Chair Bernd Surrow provided information on research activities in his department, including an update on the EIC (electron-ion collider) project that involves Temple Physics Faculty.

Senior Associate Dean Susan Jansen-Varnum provided an overview of new student enrollments as of the end of April. Paid deposits are lagging behind this time last year, but it is still too early to draw conclusions on whether fall enrollments in CST will be lower. From a comparative standpoint, CST is doing better than other colleges at Temple. The new Genomic Medicine program was cited as it is attracting significant interest in applicants to the program, with a growing number of paid deposits. Such new programs would be part of a strategy to allow CST to remain competitive in attracting students.

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The collegial assembly adjourned at 3:48 PM.