Aaron Mitchell presents 2 topics for discussion and approval by MCS College Council:

- Approval of a new course 03-360/03-760.
  - To be taught by Andreas Pfenning and cross-listed in Computational Biology.
  - Pfenning is a new, charismatic, enthusiastic faculty member who completed his undergrad career at CMU.
  - Neuroscience, genetics, computational biology – computing bridges all specialties in biology. This is a semester-long taste of how it applies across the discipline.
  - Offered at a 700 level for graduate students vs a 300 level for undergraduates.
  - Fulfills a gap in training for students interested in neuroscience, genetics, and comp bio.
  - Faculty member has a courtesy appointment in CS.
  - Discussion of importance of the topics in current relevant research in epigenetic structures, how it can control inherited DNA genes that are turned off but stressors can flip to “on.”
  - Importance in the future study of diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.
  - All of the Biology faculty are interested and excited about the topic.
  - Software used in course is “R.” Discussion of use of R for basic work but more complicated work can be done in C and incorporated.
  - Question as to why 300 vs 400 level? Answer is that only Molecular Bio is a 400-level course and it is appropriate for a 300 level in Biological Sciences.
  - Question as to when it will be taught? Answer is this spring.
  - Undergrads need 2 biology electives and this would count as one of them.
  - Importance of our students enrolling in the MCS version of the course vs the CS Comp Bio version for accurate fiscal representation/counting in the new university financial model and the importance of assigned teaching credit.
  - Discussion of the prestige of a CS/computational course listed on transcripts as we are supposed to be training interdisciplinarily. A conversation to be discussed in the future between colleges and at a higher university level as this is a situation unique to the field.
  - Approved unanimously.

- Inclusion of 03-360/03-760 as an option for the Neurobiology & Cognitive Neuroscience concentrations within the Neuroscience majors as the core Computational Neuro course to be included as an option with Computational Perception and Parallel Dist. Processing.
- Should be included for Neuroscience majors to fulfill the computational neuroscience option currently fulfilled by Computational Perception and Parallel Distr. Processing.
- Question as to who teaches these? Answer is Comp Bio and Psychology.
- This would be an important contribution to knowledge base serving clients with this.
- Approved unanimously.