Natural Sciences Chairs Council

January 6, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-104

In Attendance: S. Pantula, D. Maynard, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, M. Chao, T. Burch, T. Rizzo, B. Haddock, J. Torner, T. Valencia, L. Guzman, J. Fischer-Smith, D. Rinebolt, R. Hernandez

1. **Informational Items**
   1. Announcements by chairs

* Dr. Chao reported that the biology department has 14 candidates that they will be doing phone interviews within the upcoming weeks.
* Mr. Hernandez distributed academic planners that he had made for STEM students. He requested the chairs review them and send him any suggestions they might have for additional information to include.
* Mr. Hernandez reminded the chairs that their letters of recommendation for the outstanding alumnus for this year’s commencement should be sent to him before January 16th. Dr. Cousins requested a list of previous years’ winners. Mr. Hernandez said he would send that out at the close of the meeting.
* Mr. Hernandez announced he would be providing marketing and administrative support to Dr. Lisa Guzman, Director of CNS Advising, and the Advising team.
* Mr. Hernandez also reported that he is preparing an announcement of the $275,000 KECK grant that was awarded to the geology department.
* Dr. Torner reported that the physics department has 19 candidates and they are currently in the process of doing phone interviews.
* Dr. Torner also announced that Dr. Carol Hood and Dr. Sarah Callori recently received a grant (PhysTECH) to encourage and assist students to become high school physics teachers.
* Dr. Haddock reported that the Kinesiology department is beginning its on-campus interviews this week.
* Dr. Rizzo reported that the Health Science department has 17 candidates for their environmental health position and 5 candidates for the chair position.
* Dr. Maynard informed the chairs that TRC has a brochure available detailing funding that is available that could be given to candidates.
* Dr. Maynard also reported that they are currently conducting interviews for the 3 positions at the math department is seeking to fill.
* Dr. Cousins announced the ISSUES-X informal luncheon (all invited) will meet this Thursday, January 9th.
* Dr. Cousins also announced that the chemistry/biochemistry department conducted 19 zoom interviews and invited 10 candidates; three have already taken other positions, and seven will be coming to campus in the next few weeks.
* Dr. Qiao reported the CSE program have sent their list of candidates to Faculty Affairs for approval.
* Dr. Qiao also reported that the department is busy with the requests that ABET made of them.
* Dr. Guzman reported that the STEM center is currently giving their post surveys.
* Dr. Guzman also reported that the advising center staff have begun meeting with the departments as a means of assuring the advisors have all the latest information for advising students, especially Q2S.
* Dr. Guzman announced that the Advising Center has hired two more STEM counselors and is in the process of reviewing applications for the SSP III position for HPAC.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith reported that the Howard Hughes grant (HHMI) is due next week. He and Sally have been very busy preparing for it. He also reminded the chairs of the scholarship dessert (Sweet Success) that will be held on February 5th, 2020 from 3 to 5 p.m.
* Dr. Burch started her time thanking Mr. Hernandez for his assistance with the hiccup that occurred in the pinning ceremony before commencement. She was very appreciative of his effective and thorough handling of the situation.
* Dr. Burch also announced that the new staff person had started work today at the Palm Desert Campus.
* Mrs. Valencia reported that the office is currently working on the contracts where changes have been recently made. She requested that if the departments have changes to please get them to her as soon as possible. She also reminded the chairs that when faculty use their professional development funds it is important that their class code is used in the chartfield string.
  1. Announcements from administration
* Dr. Pantula reported that he would like to meet with each of the departments at a department meeting in the next month or two. Ms. Rinebolt will work with the ASCs to schedule his visit.
* Dr. Pantula asked the chairs for their thoughts on shared governance and what that means within the college as well as within the university. Discussion ensued.