Natural Sciences Chairs Council

December 20, 2021

2:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, M. Jetter, T. Burch, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, S. Pantula, R. Hernandez

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Jetter reported the Math Department is busy working on the process of hiring new faculty. The search is going well.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department is also involved a search and will be bringing candidates to campus soon.
* Dr. Todd reported the Geology Department is involved in their search for an additional faculty member. They are also working on their self-study report.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry Department has just had their tech position finally post
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department approve the offers.
* Dr. Chao expressed his appreciation to James Pelley and the folks who helped protect equipment and clean up after the water leak last week.
* Dr. Burch reported the Nursing Department is in the final stages of their two searches.
* Dr. Dajani reported the Computer Science Department is conducting interviews for their faculty search.
* Dr. Escalante reported the STEM Center is in the process of installing their new office furniture. He also reported that Jocabed has returned from her maternity leave and is now back at work.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Pantula stated that he wanted to hold the meeting today to discuss the advising issues and orientation concerns that he has heard them express. Discussion ensued about the problems departments are encountering with transfer students.

Currently advising and orientation for transfer students takes place in July. This is way too late. Advising and registration should take place in April, so that students are able to enroll in classes. If this does not happen until July, the classes are usually full and students cannot enroll in the classes they should be taking. It is also too late for the departments to add additional seats and/or sections to accommodate these students.

Chairs suggested if orientation is that important for the transfer students, a hold could be placed on the student’s account and the student could be informed that failure to attend orientation would result in them being dropped from the classes they are enrolled in.

Dr. Escalante reported that arrangements have been made for Sara Moss, Director of Mentoring and Eduardo Mendoza, Director of Advising to attend the next department chairs’ meeting to discuss this situation.

Dean Pantula also wanted to discuss PDC and our relationship with that campus. There was discussion about partnering with PDC and community colleges in the area to recruit new students.

Discussion also ensued on offering classes at PDC. Are there enough classes being offered? Are there enough seats being offered in classes to accommodate PDC students if necessary? Discussion also took place concerning the Dorothy Method of offering classes – hybrid class where sometimes lectures are live from main campus and sometimes they are live from PDC campus. That way a class is equally taught to SBC and PDC students.