Natural Sciences Chairs Council

February 17, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-104

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

1. **Presentation by Human Resources –** Jim Reyes, Rowena Woidyla
2. **Approval of Minutes for February 3, 2020**
3. **Informational Items**
   1. Announcements by chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the chemistry department’s first candidate has accepted their offer.
* Dr. Chao reported that the biology department has finished their on-campus interviews.
* Dr. Rizzo reported that the health science department interviewed three candidates for the environmental health position.
* Dr. Maynard reported that the math department currently has two offers pending for the statistic’s positions. He also reported that the department chair review committee has been created and will begin the process of choosing a department chair.
* Dr. Maynard also reported that the geology department has three candidates coming to campus to interview for the department chair position.
* Dr. Qiao reported the computer science department has three candidates coming to campus to interview for the computer engineering position.
* Dr. Qiao also reported that Monica Latimer is retiring and they have begun the search to fill that position.
* Dr. Guzman reported that they are hiring for the Health Professions Advising position. They have 4 candidates they are interviewing. She distributed a handout which summarized the advising center’s number of students seen by department. Dr. Torner asked Dr. Guzman for a list of information they would like to see in EAB.
* Dr. Burch reported the nursing department is interviewing 4 candidates for their open position. The DNP position is on hold temporarily as the lead candidate has experienced a family emergency and is unavailable right now.
* Ms. Valencia announced that all monies have been posted to the class accounts. Several faculty members had deficits in their accounts and the departments will be responsible for reimbursing the college for those funds.
* Dr. Torner reported the physics’ department has its candidates on campus for interviews this week.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith and Mr. Hernandez gave a recap of the Sweet Success Event that took place last week. They asked the chair if they had any feedback to please let them know. Dr. Chao suggested a note sent to the parents prior to the event could impact the attendance by scholarship recipients.
* Mr. Herandez also mentioned that the Riverside Unified School District would like a female speaker to make presentation to high school students regarding females in STEM classes.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith also reported that the alumni department would like suggestions of alumni to serve on the Board.
  1. Announcements from administration
* Dr. McGill announced that open enrollment for Spring 2020 begins March 3rd.
* Dr. McGill inquired of the chairs if they would like Dr. Guzman to be able to make decisions regarding substitutions for classes. Discussion ensured. Final decision was that biology would allow Dr. Guzman or Amanda Salazar to initiate exceptions from the audit for any pre-approved substitutions that the Biology department has authorized. The other departments (chemistry, computer science, geology, health science, kinesiology, math, nursing & physics) would prefer to have the department initiate those requests.
* Dr. McGill reported the attendance at the CLC meetings has been low recently and asked the chairs if they would like to take a break for the remainder of the faculty hiring season, or to meet less frequently. She is going to send out a survey requesting input on the decision.
* Dr. McGill requested that the chairs have a faculty member volunteer to serve on the outstanding student selection committee.
* Dr. McGill reported to the chairs that the college will follow the university’s large lecture policy for tenure-line faculty and full-time lecturers. She sought input on a proposal to allow part-time lectures to choose between the benefits provided by the university’s large lecture policy for part-time lecturers or those provided by our college’s existing large lecture policy.
* Dr. McGill reported that the late fee for grad checks for fall 2020 has been postponed to May 28th.
* Dr. Pantula reported that the deadline for VETI proposals is rapidly approaching and he encouraged the departments to file.
* Dr. Pantula informed the chairs that Dr. Stuart Sumida (Bio) will be making a presentation at the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco on Saturday, March 7th. He will speak about the importance of science to the magic of animation and visual effects.
* Dr. Pantula distributed a flyer for the Mythbusters event being given by the Office of Institutional Research and Analytics on February 20th. He encouraged the chairs to attend and promote this to their faculty too.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he had attended the first UBAC meeting for the new year this morning. Plans are being made using 3 budget scenarios. Dr. Pantula repeated his request of the chairs to present 1 item they would like permanent funding for and 3 items they would like one-time funding for. He also requested they give him projections for their hiring needs for the next three years. February 20th is the deadline to present these items to him.
* Dr. Pantula expressed his pride in the student research awards that were recently received by our CNS students.