Natural Sciences Chairs’ Council

May 6, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: J. Dodsworth, D. Smith, K. Dajani, C. Todd, T. Tolar-Peterson, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, S. Pantula, C. Hood, G. Vigil

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Smith reported the Chemistry Department is beginning their ASC interviews this week.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics and Astronomy Department’s search for a chair was unsuccessful.
* Dr. Torner reported that he has been busy working on enrollment and getting information to students who have yet to register.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science and Engineering held an outreach event last week which was well attended.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the department has reduced their online class for Fall 2024 in response to the request for more face-to-face classes.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department held an event for their graduating seniors last week.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department had received a VETI grant.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Mathematics Department held a low-key event for their graduating seniors last week.
* Dr. Jetter reported that she had requested volunteers to serve on the search committee should the department have the opportunity to have a search.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that the Kinesiology Department’s KSA club held an end of the year banquet last week.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that she has been busy watching enrollment numbers for classes.
* Dr. Dabbs reported the department had 2 students participate in the research event held at CSU San Luis Obispo.
* Dr. Yu reported the Nursing Department has 3 candidates coming to campus this week.
* Dr. Yu reported the department is holding interviews for the ASC position at PDC this week.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that the Health Science and Human Ecology Department has had 2 successful faculty searches and will have 2 new faculty members beginning in Fall 2024.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the department is working on a lot of surveys needed for their accreditation.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the department has also received a VETI grant.
* Dr. Dodsworth reported the Biology Department held an end of semester movie night event for their students.
* Dr. Dodsworth reported the department will hold the Fehn Award ceremony this coming Friday, May 10th.
* Dr. Dodsworth reported the department will have a baseball outing for faculty and staff at the 66er’s stadium.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dean Pantula reported that he was asked to submit to the budget office the college’s hospitality policy. He asked chairs if any of the departments had a policy in place.
* Dean Pantula spoke to the chairs about the University’s Come and Get It Program. He also mentioned the containers that are held in the CNS office and encouraged chairs to be mindful of students needs and use these options when the opportunity presents itself.
* Dean Pantula asked chairs how they dealt with faculty not showing up to teach. Discussion ensued as chairs shared their different experiences.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she is working with the ASCs to make sure the faculty class account balances are accurate.
* Ms. Valencia reported that May 20th is the go/no go deadline for summer classes, and she will be preparing the summer contracts at that point.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he has been working on the End-of-Year report for Strategic Planning which is due June 3rd.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the SOAR session for the freshmen will be held on June 4th. There will be a faculty panel at that event. He is in need of 5 faculty members to work at that event. The transfer SOAR will be held July 9th. There will not be a faculty panel for the transfer event.
* Dr. McGill reported that Academic Affairs requires that all supervision course enrollments are approved by the dean. The need for chairs to review all supervision enrolment requests and approve only those that are consistent with CNS policy was discussed, as were situations in which supervision enrollments may or may not be approved.
* Dr. Vigil reported that the college is holding 2 events this month. Donuts with the Dean will be held tomorrow, May 7th and the Outstanding Student Awards will be held on May 9th.
* Dr. Hood encouraged the chairs to keep an eye on the waitlists for enrollment in the summer and fall classes. We want to make sure that students are able to enroll in classes.
* Dr. Hood spoke to chairs about the SLOAN Grant. She has experience with the grant and could assist departments with applications for the grant if anyone is interested.
* Dr. Hood reported that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet again to discuss prioritizing assessment and coming up with ideas proactively. She asked the chairs if they would like to have a strategic planning meeting the same week as a chairs’ meeting. She will send out options to the chairs.
* Dean Pantula reported that he had met recently with Tomi Daniel. She spoke with him about holding an event where CEOs from companies could attend and would be encouraged to support our students.