Natural Sciences Chairs Council

July 1, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that she has been busy reaching out to international graduate students about the graduate programs offered by the Department of Health Science and Human Ecology.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that she has also been busy working on updating the information on the department web site.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that the Kinesiology Department has signed to do a 3+1 program with a university in China. The program will begin in 2025 and the first students coming to CSUSB will be in 2028. The program will consist of 10-15 students.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science and Engineering is also working on a program with a university in China.
* Dr. Dajani reported that he is completing the necessary paper work for the new MS in Applied Data Science program for the school.
* Dr. Jetter reported that she has been working on tracking student pack-enrollment. PDC has a growing STEM student population, and this is creating some challenges for scheduling math courses. Dr. Pantula requested that Dr. Escalante look into the STEM students’ needs at PDC.
* Dr. Smith reported that the new ASC for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry started last week.
* Dr. Todd reported that the summer potluck that was held by the Geology Department went very well.

Announcements by Admin

* Dr. Escalante reported that he had sent the chairs an email with the information regarding the transfer student SOARs that will be held this month. Unlike the FTF SOARs there will be no panel discussions and chairs will meet with students in their majors.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Student Success Center is currently short staffed of counselors but is in the process of hiring more counselors.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Student Success Center has recruited over 300 students for the upcoming term. This is the largest group they’ve had so far.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he has been working on ideas to improve our relationship with the community colleges in our area. There are three ways he would like to establish.
  + An event to bring administrators to our campus
  + An event to bring students to our campus
  + Visiting community colleges to establish good relationships with students and advisors.
* Dr. Vigil reported that he has been busy updating the different department fact sheets.
* Dr. Vigil reported that he is in the process of updating the department web sites.
* Dr. Vigil reported because of the budget cuts we are facing we will not be able to provide shuttle service to the observatory for Homecoming. We will be able to provide some other attractions for the Department of Physics and Astronomy.
* Dr. Vigil requested department chairs to think about alumni that could be recommended for the Alumni Hall of Fame.
* Dr. Vigil reported that the CNS Scholarships have been submitted; Total thus far is $114, 252; 86 Recipients; 8 scholarships are to be determined based on endowment.
* Dr. Hood reported that the Physics Department’s equipment is back up and running.
* Dr. Hood reported that CLSS is having some issues after the latest software update and are working at resolving the issues.
* Dr. Pantula requested that the chairs make sure that all their courses that should have lab fees are accurate and up to date. There is a significant amount of lab fees that should be collected and that have been missing since the Q2S change.
* Dr. Pantula reported that fall and spring semesters will be a budget tight time. Because of the budget deficit it is important that we look for efficiencies as much as possible. If possible, maximize class size. Reassigned time will be limited.
* Dr. Pantula reported that the college office does have some CNS swag available if needed.
* Dean Pantula suggested that the college develop a checklist of necessary items that need to be taken care of to schedule events.
* Dean Pantula distributed a handout detailing funding of the College of Natural Sciences for the past two years. He asked the chairs to recommend companies that might be interested in investing in CSUSB.
* Dean Pantula reported that he had just finished the book, Core Competencies of Civility in Nursing and Healthcare by Cynthia Clark. Dr. Clark will be holding a training for the nursing department at the end of August. He encouraged the departments to do things to improve relationships within the departments.