Natural Sciences Chairs Council

March 20, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, T. Tolar-Peterson, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, J. Torner, D. Rinebolt, S. Pantula, S. McGill, D. Maynard, G. Escalante

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Jetter reported that the Mathematics Department had begun advising this week.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department will be interviewing more candidates this week. They are also in the process of hiring staff for this campus as well as PDC.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department is going through its 2nd emergency hire process. They hope to have this completed soon.
* Dr. Cousins also reported that the department chair search committee should finish their search this week.
* Dr. Dabbs reported the Kinesiology Department has completed their search for the PDC position. Additionally, Des’ree Valenzuela has accepted the offer for the ASC II position. They will soon begin the search to fill the ASC I position.
* Dr. Dabbs also reported the faculty have started advising students and have started the lecturer evaluations, so Kinesiology has been rather busy.
* Dr. Todd expressed her frustration with Class Climate and other chairs agreed with her that it is not a user-friendly software.
* Dr. Todd reported that Dr. Tandis Bidgoli received a USGS National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program's EDMAP grant for $29,297 and Dr. Lazar heard positively from NSF.
* Dr. Chao indicated that he is optimistic about Dr. Angela Horner being awarded a NIH R16 grant.
* Dr. Dajani reported the School of Computer Science and Engineering has had a very frustrating search for new faculty. Two of the scheduled interviews were cancelled at the last minute by the candidates.
* Dr. Dajani reported the department has also been very busy advising students.
* Dr. Dajani reported he had attended the STEM NET meeting at Cal Poly Pomona last week and was very impressed with the presentations.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the Health Science and Human Ecology department has started their on-campus interviews with candidates.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics and Astronomy department has been very busy with advising students.
* Dr. Torner reported the department is losing some of their part-time lecturers to the community colleges. They have begun interviews this week for full time faculty which they are in need of, but now they are also dealing with a shortage of part-timers.
* Dr. Torner suggested that the chairs encourage their faculty to watch some of the lectures that were part of the STEM NET Conference last week. There were a lot of helpful lectures.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Escalante reported that he has finished the DEI suggestions from the brain-storming session that was held. From these he is proposing that a college-based DEI committee is needed. He then asked the chairs if they believe that this committee should be formed by 1) a representative from each department or 2) an open call. Discussion ensued. Dean Pantula suggested that a good size for a committee maybe 7 members.
* Dr. Escalante then asked about funding for the committee. The input from faculty in the brainstorming group suggested that committee chair receive release time for their service. Discussion then ensued about release time for any committee service. Dr. Torner suggested that it may be best to treat it like a mini-grant. Dr. Todd suggested that there be some guidelines so that committee members would know what was expected of them.
* Dr. Maynard spoke to the chairs about the Choose CSUSB event that is taking place this coming Saturday, March 25th at 1 p.m. There currently are 45 students and 90 guests signed up for the STEM meeting in CGI 104. There are 81 students and 172 guests signed up for the Allied Health meeting in CE 105. Dr. Maynard requested that each department have a representative from the department speak for a couple of minutes about their department.
* Dr. McGill reported that April 3rd students will be able begin registering for summer classes.
* Dr. McGill informed chairs that only fall and spring semesters generate entitlements. Summer will not be included. However, if faculty entitlement is not met in fall/spring semesters, then summer will work to meet entitlement.
* Dr. McGill reported that fall registration will begin on April 24th.
* Dean Pantula spoke with chairs on the issue of face-to-face and online classes. He would like the majority of our classes offered face-to-face. This will give the college greater opportunities to interact with our students.
* Dean Pantula encouraged chairs to attend the Open Forum with the Provost to go over the 5-year review report for Dean Pantula.
* Dr. Chao inquired if there were any plans for a Scherba Lecture this semester. Dr. Chao suggested that a small committee be formed to create a structured timeline for these events.
* Dr. Pantula mentioned that his review of the Range Elevations were due today. He will submit his recommendations.
* Dr. Pantula asked chairs to send him the VETI grant proposals so he has an estimate of what could be obtained.
* Dr. Pantula reported that chairs should expect budgets to be tighter next year.

Assessment Coordinator – Amber Olney