Natural Sciences Chairs Council

April 17, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the stockroom staff had a little excitement this week as they were put to the test on a helium leak.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department has been busy advising students.
* Dr. Todd also reported that the department has been working on plans to update the rock shed.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Mathematics Department has had a successful search for the applied mathematics position. They are still working on hiring someone for the statistics position.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department is working on admissions for the fall semester.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that the Health Science & Human Ecology Department’s faculty search is continuing. Both highly qualified candidates took positions at other universities.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that the department will be holding an Open House this Friday, April 21th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
* Dr. Chao reported that Angela Horner has received a NIH grant.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science & Engineering is in the process of extending offers to finalists in the search for assistant professors.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the department is planning an advising event for all CSE students. During the event, students will examine their PAWS reports with guidance from the CSE faculty advisors and will then complete PAWS report screening forms. Students will also be able to view degree plan flowcharts and course offerings as well as design their list of courses to register for next academic year.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics and Astronomy Department have submitted a request for a new candidate. The department is dealing with difficulty in finding lecturers to teach classes in the fall.
* Dr. Torner reported that Matteo Crismani has been awarded a $500,000 NASA grant.

Michael DeSalvio – Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Maynard spoke to the chairs about the Summer SOAR Program. There will be nine sessions for first-time freshmen and they would like at least 5 department chairs at each event. They would like each department to have their own SOAR session for transfer students.
* Dr. Maynard discussed lower number of California Community Colleges (CCC) transfer admissions for fall 2023. President Morales has requested information on Transfer Model Curricula (TMC) and Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) in the college. Dr. Maynard has been asked to complete an excel file. BIOL, CHEM, CSE, GEOL, MATH and PHYS have 60 unit degree programs that are coordinated with ADTs. Kinesiology, Public Health and Nutrition were requested their respective TMC to see if their program was similar and would allow students to graduate within 60 units.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the STEM Gym is being used quite a lot.
* Mr. Hernandez shared with the chairs the faculty names of those who were nominated for the different faculty awards and asked the chairs to give a brief overview of why that particular faculty should win the award.
* Mr. Hernandez shared with the chairs the names of the students who have been nominated for the outstanding undergraduate and graduate student awards. He asked the chairs to give a brief overview of why that particular student should win the award.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that only one nomination has been received for the outstanding alumni. This year’s outstanding alumnus will be Tae-Wook Chun.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he is currently working on the staff appreciation day event and let the chairs know that this may be an all day affair.
* Ms. Valencia reminded the chairs that the professional development funds will expire this year and encouraged the chairs to remind the faculty that they should use the funds before the rapidly approaching deadline. May 8th will be the last day to submit a requisition.
* Dr. McGill reported that some summer courses are full and asked the chairs to please check their classes and add seats or sections if necessary.
* Dr. McGill reported that fall registration will begin April 24th. Open enrollment will begin May 12th.
* Dean Pantula reminded the chairs that they should be keeping up to date on the department’s funds.
* Dean Pantula reported that he has had a couple of faculty reach out to him concerning the associate dean’s position that will become available at the end of the academic year. He encouraged anyone interested to talk to him.