Natural Sciences Chairs Council

April 20, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, M. Chao, T. Burch, B. Haddock, T. Rizzo, D. Maynard, J. Torner, T. Valencia, L. Guzman, D. Rinebolt

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Rizzo reported the department is in the midst of EHS candidate interviews and he is currently working on the RPT reviews.
* Dr. Guzman shared information with the chairs regarding self-select appointments with advising. She also reported that they are busy with SOAR planning.
* Mr. Hernandez shared the results of the outstanding faculty awards. Winner of the outstanding teaching award is Geraldine Fike, The winner of the outstanding research award is Erik Melchiorre. The winner of the outstanding service award is Joan Fryxell. The winner of the outstanding lecturer award is Diane Vines. Mr. Hernandez also reported that he is in the planning stages for Coyote Connect meetings.
* Dr. Chao reported that he had heard from a student that he came to campus to use the campus wi-fi by sitting in his car in the parking lot and he was told by the campus police that he could not sit in the parking lot on campus. He inquired if there had been a change in policy. Dr. Pantula commented that there has been no change to the policy and that this was a mistake.
* Dr. Burch reported on some of the issues the nursing department is facing with Covid-19. Clinical sites for nursing students are a real challenge. This is happening across the CSUs. Additionally, the offer of credit/no credit for classes is being discussed. There does not seem to be a consistency across the CSUs. Dr. Pantula said the Faculty Senate will vote on this tomorrow.

Announcements by Administration

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* Dr. McGill reported that $500,000 in stock has been donated to the college. The college plans to use the funds to get our drones up-to-date and to upgrade the observatory so that it is state of the art.
* Dr. McGill also requested that the departments keep a list of materials/equipment they need so they can respond quickly when a donor expresses interest in funding projects.
* Dr. McGill gave a scheduling update for the college. She reported that advising begins May 21st. Discussion then ensued on advising and how the college is doing in its advising of students. Dr. Guzman said she will provide results of the exit surveys that the advising department has conducted.
* Dr. Pantula announced that Mr. Fischer-Smith has accepted an offer from another university and will be leaving us.
* Dr. Pantula announced the geology chair candidate has declined our offer
* Dr. Pantula reported that the Health Science & Human Ecology Department has been granted permission to continue the EHS search.
* Dr. Pantula reported the HSCI chair search, the DNP search and the Geology chair search have all been paused.
* Dr. Pantula informed the chairs that some of the campus entrances have been blocked, however the main entrance is open.
* Dr. Pantula also announced that Dr. Sudhakar has just received 100 lap tops. These are available for students, TAs and faculty.