Natural Sciences Chairs Council

March 21, 2022

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, L. Mian, B. Haddock, T. Burch, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, S. McGill, S. Pantula, T. Valencia, R. Hernandez

Approval of Minutes – March 7, 2022

* Minutes of the March 7th meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the Chemistry Department’s ASC had returned to work after a medical absence.
* Dr. Burch reported all is well in the Nursing Department.
* Dr. Jetter reported the Mathematics Department is busy with PT evaluations. She had questions about the routing procedure as the changes recently made to the FAM seem to indicate the form should go to the dean for signature before it is sent to the faculty member.
* Dr. Dajani reported the Computer Science Department recently held an advising event that was very successful. He also reported that the department had received permission for the MS in Applied Data Science degree from the Chancellor’s Office and the Board of Trustees. The department is still working on the requirements for the Data Science certificate program.
* Dr. Haddock reported the Kinesiology Department has begun the process of hiring a new chair. It is to be an internal search. They have 2 candidates and will vote on the acceptability of the two candidates in the near future.
* Dr. Haddock also spoke about the liability forms that have been part of the requirements for some kinesiology classes in the past. He has been told the liability form is no longer needed. He has reached out to EHS and Risk Management for some clarity but has not had a response.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department is losing their recently hired ASC who is moving to Student Affairs.
* Dr. Chao reported that April is Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American Heritage Month and there are lots of interesting and enjoyable events that will be held as part of the celebration.
* Dr. Todd reported the Spring Break course they offered was a success.
* Dr. Todd reported that she is busy working on getting things ready for the two new hires who will be joining the department in the fall.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department has hired a new faculty member to begin in the fall. He is busy looking for new office and research space.
* Dr. Mian reported the EHS search continues. They will vote on a candidate soon.
* Dr. Mian reported the Health Service Administration Program is working on getting accreditation for their program. The Masters in Public Health program is working on the re-accreditation process now. .

Announcements by Administration

* Ms. Valencia reminded chairs that their faculty need to submit a budget plan if their carryover PDF will be over $3,000.
* Ms. Rinebolt spoke to the chairs about the student assistants and problems with the submission of timesheets that she is experiencing. She asked them to speak with the faculty who are supervising the students and to make sure they are checking the timesheets for accuracy before they sign them.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that the March 24th Celebration of Teaching event that was held by CNS and COE was a very successful event.
* Mr. Hernandez reminded the chairs of the upcoming Student Success Center Transfer Day event which will be held April 8th.
* Mr. Hernandez reported he has been very busy with the promotion campaign for the Science Success Center’s Open House which will be held on April 26th.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that there have only been a few nominations for the Outstanding Faculty awards and he would like to extend the due date for another week to give more faculty the time to submit nominations.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that there have only been two nominations for the outstanding alumni award and he would like to extend the due date for those nominations as well.
* Dr. Maynard reminded the chairs of the STEM Open House that will be held on Friday, April 8th. He asked the chairs to let him know who will be the faculty member representing the department at this event.
* Dr. Maynard also informed the chairs of a Campus-wide Open house that will be held on April 30th. Department tours will be held from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. He asked if the chairs wanted their departments to participate in this.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the STEM Center has their new counselor position approved and it has been posted. He is hoping to get several qualified candidates to interview and hire.
* Dr. McGill spoke with the chairs about their plans for office space for newly hired faculty. She asked them to keep her in the loop with their plans and needs. She reported that we currently have 4 offices in the FO building and we may be able to get more if needed. Dean Pantula spoke about the importance of lecturers having office space as well.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that registration for summer classes begins today. She also mentioned that fall advising is under way also.
* Dr. McGill spoke with the chairs about the CNS CREATE proposal. It is a $300,000 grant that will be awarded to 5 colleges/departments across the CSUs. She inquired whether they would prefer to apply as a college or a department.
* Dean Pantula spoke with the chairs about the importance of lecturers having a sense of belonging to their departments and how having an office space contributes to that sense of belonging. He reported that the college has been approved to hire 9 new faculty members this year (his goal is to hire 12) and departments should be thinking about faculty office space and planning.
* Dean Pantula reminded the chairs that he has to submit his list of ideas of one time funding and permanent funding requests this Friday. If they hadn’t submitted any ideas, he asked they be sure and get them to him before then.
* Dean Pantula also asked the chairs for ideas concerning student/faculty success. Some have submitted some ideas and he requested that they continue to think about possible ideas.
* Dean Pantula informed the chairs that he was thinking of doing PRISM proposals again. He will make a decision after he finds out how many sabbaticals have been approved.