Natural Sciences Chairs Council

April 5, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, D. Maynard, L. Mian, B. Haddock, M. Jetter, T. Burch,

J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, R. Hernandez, S. McGill, S. Pantula

Approval of Minutes -

* Minutes of March 15th meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported the NMR installment is happening with relatively few hitches (3 week process). Chem/Biochem mandatory advising has started using EAB scheduling.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics department has been busy advising students.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Escalante gave an update on the community college workshop. He thanked the chairs for their assistance in getting participants.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the committee working on the general science degree had their second meeting and are moving forward in determining classes to be offered. He also reported the data analytics committee will hold their second meeting this Friday.
* Mr. Hernandez thanked the chairs for their nominations for the outstanding alumnus. We have two candidates. He will send out the information concerning the nominees in the next day or two.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he has the final list of the outstanding undergraduate and graduate students for each department. The plan is to hold a virtual ceremony this year, either on May 13th or May 14th.
* Mr. Hernandez reported he is working on planning the virtual Sweet Success ceremony for this year. It will be held May 6th and will be a virtual event along with some prerecorded highlights. He will send out a list of all CNS scholarship recipients to the chairs and asked them to review the list and if there are any students that stand out (have an interesting story) to please let him know. He would like to use some of these stories as highlights in the event.
* Mr. Hernandez inquired if the chairs would be interested in holding an end of the year social event. He suggested an outdoor event where we could gather and visit. Chairs did express an interest and Mr. Hernandez will work on planning this event to be held later in May.
* Mr. Hernandez announced the winners of this year’s faculty awards. Jason Ng is the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching. Jeremy Dodsworth is the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award for Research. David Maynard is the recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award for Service and Lisa Anderson from the Department of Biology is the Outstanding Lecturer Award recipient.
* Dr. McGill provided the chairs with a scheduling update. Summer registration will begin on Monday, April 12th and Fall registration will begin on April 26th. The optimizer has been run and the Fall schedule is publicly available today, April 5th. You may continue to refine it though, if necessary. Plan B is set up and we are ready should there be a last minute change in the plan for fall.
* Dr. McGill asked that chairs have their tenure-line faculty teaching assignments in the schedule and any reassigned time entered in PeopleSoft before April 23rd so that she can create a OneDrive spreadsheet for faculty or chairs to enter more details about any reassigned time.
* Dr. McGill thanked the faculty who served on the team teaching policy. She expressed some concern though on how they would pay the faculty based on the committee’s recommendation. Dr. Pantula suggested not setting up a formal policy right now but wait to see how many team teaching classes are actually scheduled and any impact it might have.
* Dr. McGill shared the report that was submitted of the College’s Strategic Plan for Advising. Chairs were given a few minutes to review the report and then broke out into break rooms for discussion. Did the data in the report provide useful information about whether or not the advising in our College meets the needs of our students?
* Dr. McGill reminded chairs that they need to track the number faculty advising appointments. The best way to do this is through EAB. We need to report this information in our College’s mid-year and end-of-year reports.
* Dr. Pantula spoke with the chairs about advising that is being done for students of our college. Only professional advising is done at the STEM Center and only STEM students get this.
* Dr. Pantula requested the chairs nominate someone to replace Paul Orwin whose term as STEM-Net Fellow is expiring.
* Dr. Pantula thanked the chairs for submitting their requests for the HERFF funding.