Natural Sciences Chairs Council

May 17, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: S. Sumida, 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

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Jetter reported that Mathematics Department did not place advising holds on their students for the next semester and now they are experiencing students who didn’t have the necessary bridge classes.
* Dr. Haddock reported that he has been very busy trying to get everybody advised.
* Dr. Cousins reported that she has been busy trying to figure out why the Chemistry Department is being charged so much for cylinders by AmeriGas. She reported the rental numbers keep going up. She has reached out to James Pelley, our equipment technician to determine just how many cylinders we own and how many we are renting. Mr. Hernandez said that he would work with Mr. Pelley to resolve this.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department is still very busy with advising students. He reported that he has found that a large number of incoming transfer students are unable to get the math sections that they need.
* Dr. Maynard reported the School of Computer Science & Engineering and the Geology Department are facing pretty much the same things as the other departments. Advising students a major part of the work.
* Dr. Mian reported the Health Science and Human Ecology Department is working still on their chair search, but it is not going very well.
* Dr. Burch reported that the Nursing Department is dealing with a lot of questions from students who did not get into the program. Also they are very busy with a lot of student issues.

Announcements by Administration

* Ms. Valencia reported that she is working on processing the supervision payments this week. She also reported that she will be requesting information for documentation for HERFF fund requests.
* Mr. Hernandez thanked everyone for their support of the student success event. He also reported that he is working on the announcement of the new chairs that have been hired in CNS.
* Mr. Hernandez inquired if the chairs would like him to send out a congratulatory email to their graduating students. Those who are interested should contact him.
* Mr. Hernandez also asked chairs if their departments are planning any events for Homecoming Week which is currently scheduled for October 11-16. If the department has anything planned, please share that with him so that he may share it with the Homecoming Committee.
* Dr. Escalante provided an overview of the two BA degrees that have been proposed for the future, the BA in Natural Science degree and the BA in Health Science degree. He asked the chairs to please let him know if they have any input on the programs.
* Dr. McGill gave a scheduling update. She sent out a list of go/no go classes for summer and asked chairs to make sure those classes with low enrollment were cancelled.
* Dr. McGill shared a spreadsheet of all fall courses that were full and asked chairs to review it and consider adding additional sections.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that spring schedule building will begin in mid-August.
* Dr. McGill also shared a dashboard that showed workload of the faculty. She asked chairs if they were interested in access to the dashboard link. She stressed the importance of not sharing the link with faculty or ASCs.
* Dr. McGill spoke to the chairs about the process that is currently in place for the selection of the outstanding graduate and undergraduate students. Currently we choose one student per department to be nominated. This works well with the undergraduate students but in the graduate program students from different departments are in one of the programs. Discussion ensued. A GoogleDoc link was shared with the chairs via email so that they can review five possible options and offer input at a future chairs’ meeting: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Si27hYAQI1UHRVlkVme_7GQb7KsAuY9BGJ1r5eFRvFY/edit?usp=sharing>
* Dean Pantula shared that there is concern over the high DFWI rates in some of our courses. He asked if the chairs thought there was anything that could be done over the summer to address this issue. He also pointed out that the instructors in most of these classes non-tenure track faculty.

Presentation by Alison Wiles, CSUSB Articulation Officer & Curriculum Analyst

* Ms. Wiles spoke with the chairs about online labs & would CSUSB be willing to accept online labs. She asked about their thoughts for the best practices for online labs.