Natural Sciences Chairs Council

June 1, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

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

Environmental Health and Safety Presentation (Beiwei Tu, Jennifer Sorenson, April Wing)

* Discussion concerning Covid 19 and a mandatory training course.
* Provided details of what would be some of the regulations when we return, masks, 6 ft social distancing, hand sanitizers.
* Dr. Chao asked about research labs continuing. Some labs require close contact.
* Dr. Haddock also pointed out that some kinesiology classes involve a lot of touching and his concern for being able to offer classes.
* Dr. Sorenson spoke about the ACHA guidelines and encouraged faculty to look at the enrollment in classes which should be 30 or less.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Pantula spoke about banked units and stressed that he wants to support faculty and pay them for the hours they have earned. The college would like to use the funds we have now to reduce the college carryover. With the budget being reduced, our future funding will probably be reduced.
* Dr. Pantula informed the chairs that FTF numbers are down as are the number of deposits received.
* Dr. Torner inquired if the university had thought about extending the deadline. Dr. Pantula responded that the expectation is that students will enroll in community colleges and then transfer to 4 year institutions.
* Dr. Burch inquired if the college anticipates any changes to the assigned time that has already been approved for fall. Dr. Pantula said at this time we do not see any changes happening.
* Dr. Guzman reported that she had been told the colleges/departments would not be participating in orientation as in the past, so she and Mr. Hernandez have scheduled orientation zoom meetings for the different departments. Undergraduate Studies has expressed concern about the conflicting information given to students – apparently UGS does not have a plan for preregistration. We have suggested a representative from UGS attend our orientation sessions.
* Dr. McGill reported that she will have a meeting with Dr. Karmanova on June 10th to discuss Go/No Go for summer classes due to low enrollment. Because enrollment is down Dr. McGill asked the chairs to check their classes to make sure they don’t have too many sections offered.
* Dr. McGill asked the chairs to have all faculty assigned time for fall requests as soon as possible. Dr. Pantula needs to approve this. She reminded them to include new faculty as well.
* Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs that he needs the fall hybrid class information by the end of the day.
* Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs at this time to be especially sensitive to students, staff and faculty. The racial tension and effects of Covid-19 have created a very stressful time for everyone.