Natural Sciences Chairs Council

June 5, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: D. Nickerson, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, S. Pantula, G. Escalante, R. Hernandez

Advancement Office Presentation – Michelle Skilijan, Tomi Daniel

* Powerpoint Presentation on partnership with College of Natural Sciences for grants

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department is very busy with summer research funded by OSR/PATHS, NASA, NIH and CREST.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department has expanded the CEP program adding Golden West College in Fall 2023. This will result in 20 more concurrent student enrollments.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department may need to submit a substantive change report to CCNE and WASC. She will continue to communicate with AVP and CCNE and provide updates as necessary.
* Dr. Yu reported that the interviews for the vacant staff positions have been moving forward. Interviews for the ASC II position at this campus will begin soon. Finalists for SSP II at the main campus and ASA II at PDC will be reached out for extension of offers.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Math Department has completed their two faculty searches.
* Dr. Dajani reported that CSE received a grant to conduct research for improving online STEM education in HSIs. The project funded by NSF is in collaboration with College of Business and Public Administration (JHBC) and intended to produce university collaboration and create a research network of HSIs interested in tackling the challenges that face their students in online settings in STEM.
* Dr. Dajani reported that CSE received another funded grant with the University of California Riverside (UCR) for data science associated with the CA Learning Lab grant, the Greater LA Data Science Pathways (GLADS-PATH).
* Dr. Dabbs reported that the Kinesiology Department had a conference in Denver that was attended by faculty and students. Some of our students presented at the conference.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that they are conducting their ASC I search this week and hope to have the position filled quickly.
* Dr. Dabbs shared the department is considering submitting the paperwork for creating a new concentration. It would be a Health Promotion Concentration and would hopefully begin in Fall 2024.
* Dr. Todd reported that participants in the High School University Program (HSUP) met to address issues with admissions and enrollment in the program.
* Dr. Todd reported that GEOL and ANTH are working on a proposal for an outdoor sample prep area near the rock shed.
* Dr. Todd reported the department has been looking at the wording in their curriculum listings and updating it.
* Dr. Todd reported the department has been looking at the lab fee charges trying to determine exactly how much they should be charging now to reflect changes in their costs over the past couple of years.
* Dr. Nickerson reported that the Biology Department has some concerns about the number of pre-nursing students who have been admitted and how the department will offer enough classes to meet the needs.
* Dr. Nickerson reported that the Biology Department is presently selecting and interviewing the first cohort of eight students to join the CIRM COMPASS program. The COMPASS program has a strong emphasis on providing investigative research opportunities for students in instructional lab classes. Three upper-division Biology laboratory research classes are being offered in summer 2023 and are partly supported by COMPASS.

Announcements by Administrators

* Ms. Valencia reported that she had sent out the summer contracts. She reminded the chairs to keep a copy of the contract in the faculty member’s file.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she will be requesting new position numbers for the new faculty searches and will give them to the department’s ASCs.
* Dean Pantula reported that each department, except Geology, will have faculty position search for next year. The searches which were not completed successfully (CSE and HSCI) for this past season will continue.
* Mr. Hernandez asked the chairs to hold September 8th for a possible leadership retreat in the fall.
* Mr. Hernandez requested that the chairs check their web sites and make sure all the information on the web site is accurate.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he is working on the Equity Gap Report and asked the chairs to send him an email listing the things they have implemented to reach their goal.
* Dr. Escalante reminded chairs that the first SOAR session will take place tomorrow.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Science Success Center will be losing some counselors. Darline Nazario is going out on maternity leave and Francine Bonneville has resigned as program manager.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the College of the Desert wants to share our lab spaces. We are trying to develop a good relationship with them.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Space Committee did approve our proposal and it will now move on to Academic Affairs for approval.
* Dean Pantula reported that we have had 9 successful faculty searches this year and promoted 8 faculty members. They are:
  + - Angela Horner- professor biology
    - Tomasz Owerkowicz- professor biology
    - Jason Burke- associate professor with tenure, chemistry
    - Ron Salloum- associate professor with tenure, CSE
    - Qingquan Sun- professor CSE
    - Yan Zhang- associate professor with tenure, CSE
    - Kerry Cato- professor geology
    - Jeremy Aikin- professor math
* Dean Pantula reported that the recruitment plans for next year have been submitted to Kevin Grisham.
* Dean Pantula announced that 15 faculty have received reassigned time for their research next academic year.
* Dean Pantula reminded the chairs that the ability to telecommute has ended for the summer. All staff are to be working on campus.
* Dean Pantula announced that the ARC Conference for staff was held last week in Monterey Bay. Theresa Salas of the Dean’s office presented at the conference. Several other staff members attended the conference from our college.
* Dean Pantula reminded the chairs that the LEARN Conference will be held Tuesday, June 6th. He encouraged the chairs to encourage their staff to attend.
* Dean Pantula announced that there is an MOU for CSE and Math to receive their computer support from Central ITS.