Natural Sciences Chairs Council

June 7, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, 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 the May 3rd and May 17th meetings were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Haddock reported that he has been surprised by the fall enrollment for kinesiology. Classes that have historically had large enrollment are not very full and classes that have had low enrollment are full. He is busy cancelling some labs and adding others.
* Dr. Cousins reported that chemistry too has had enrollment issues but chemistry’s issues were in the first summer session. Additionally an instructor on the second day of class decided he did not want to teach so she had to find someone to teach the class.
* Dr. Chao reported that Paul Orwin is leaving CSUSB and going to University of the Pacific. He and his wife have accepted positions there
* Dr. Chao also reported that the Biology Department has been working on changing the biology intro classes and making the sections smaller with team teaching faculty.
* Dr. Burch reported the Nursing Department has experienced more failures in spring courses than normal. They are not sure why this is the case.
* Dr. Burch also reported that she is receiving a lot of emails from pre-nursing students about advising issues.
* Dr. Jetter reported Coyote First Step began this week. Mathematics too has dealt with lower enrollment and has had to cancel classes.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics Department has also experienced smaller class enrollment than usual.
* Dr. McGill reported that the Health Science Department has formed the search committee and are moving forward in their search for a department chair.
* Dr. McGill reported the new chair for the Geology Department will begin working on August 1st.
* Dr. Pantula reported the School of Computer Science and Engineering is busy working on their ABET agreement. Their new director will begin on August 1st.

Announcements by Administration

* Ms. Valencia reported that she is very busy reconciling accounts and getting position numbers assigned for new hires. She also informed the chairs that the supervision payments for faculty are in the works.
* Dr. Escalante reported the STEM Center is doing well and the counselors will be reaching out to the chairs to set up a meeting to discuss advising for transfer students and incoming freshmen
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he has spoken with Mr. Pelley about the AirGas tanks. They will perform an inventory of all tanks as soon as possible.
* Dr. McGill gave a scheduling update. She reported that in mid-August spring schedule building will begin.
* Dr. McGill inquired if any of the chairs were interested in obtaining access to the workload dashboard that she spoke about at the last meeting. She asked any chairs who would like access to email her and let her know and she will send them the link.
* Dr. McGill gave an ISLAB Project update. She will be contacting the STEM chairs for help with justifying the spaces they have requested.
* Dr. Pantula reported on the new grant proposal. He provided an overview of the A4US Grant over the past 5 years and then spoke about the PATHS (Proactive Approaches for Training Hispanics in STEM) Grant that CNS is submitting.