Natural Sciences Chairs Council

August 31, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, M. Chao, K. Cousins, T. Burch, B. Haddock, M. Jetter,

J. Torner, L. Mian, D. Maynard, L. Guzman, D. Rinebolt, R. Hernandez

Presentation by Rachel Beech – AVP, Enrollment Management

* Updated chairs on enrollment issues – transfer student enrollment up.
* Reported 4-year grad rate up to 24% this year. It was 19% last year.
* Reported the deadline for spring application for transfer students is today.
* Reported there is a new process for grad check applications. It will now be university initiated and will be done by the registrar’s office. Students will no longer have to file a grad check since in the past they have seemed to be confused about when to do it. Dr. Beech said she would have printed instructions for the faculty who do advising by October.
* Dr. Beech reported that applications for fall 2021 will begin on October 1st and end on December 4th. This semester will have a multifactor admission process, not SAT/ACT scores. This will be more GPA based.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Maynard reported that he has been busy familiarizing himself with the Computer Science & Engineering School since he is now the interim director. He is now ready to begin working as the interim director.
* Dr. Maynard reported that the Geology Department is off to a great start for the semester.
* Dr. Cousins reported that this has been a very busy time for her. OSR is looking for a Goldwater fellowship mentor from CNS and the HIPS panel is looking for a person from CNS to serve on their committee. She also reminded the chairs that the ISSUES-X new(er) faculty learning community is open to all first and second year CNS faculty. They meet once a month and would welcome new faculty.
* Dr. Cousins reported a great many chemistry majors applied late and now many students are in need of classes.
* Dr. Burch reported that the chaos caused by COVID-19 continue to be a major factor for the Nursing Department. She has been very busy working on clinicals and reassigning faculty as needed.
* Dr. Chao reported that it had been brought to his attention that a student took a photo of an instructor and posted it on social media. He was curious if there was any policy concerning students doing this. Dr. Torner said he believed consent was necessary for any photos to be posted.
* Dr. Torner reported that physics too had a lot of last minute enrollment issues. Quite a few students are wanting bridge classes.
* Dr. Guzman gave an overview of the advising centers three areas and the advising that they do. PAC (Professional Advising Center) does most of the academic advising for the college. HPAC (Health Professions Advising Center) does advising for students interested in the health professions university wide. STEM Center does advising for a select cohort of STEM students in our college.
* Dr. Guzman gave s presentation summarizing the roles of the Professional advising Center (PAC), the Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC) and the STEM Center. She announced there will be changes coming to the advising center. Our advisors will be focusing on students with 45 or more units. Students under 45 units will be advised by undergraduate studies. Additionally, there will no longer be a particular advisor assigned to a student or to a CNS major. It will be an advising center not an individual listed in the student’s record.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. McGill inquired if the chairs had any additional ideas for projects to be supported by the Department of Education’s offer of funding. To date there have been three suggestions; 1) broadband internet access across the campus, 2) a triage success coach and 3) learning assistants.
* Dr. McGill inquired if the chairs had any hesitancy to allow students on campus doing research to acquire keys to the buildings and/or labs. Recently facilities has said they are reluctant to give keys to undergraduate students and will now do so only with the dean’s or VP’s approval. If the chairs are okay with issuing students keys, Dean Pantula would like some kind of notice of approval before he signs the permit form.
* Dr. McGill reported that we are at 95% of target with our FTES for the semester.
* Dr. McGill reported that by September 11th the spring semester schedule should be finalized. She reminded the chairs that nonstandard time blocks need to be approved in advance.
* Dr. McGill advised the chairs to keep an eye on the applications for spring semester to see if classes will need to be added to the schedule to accommodate transfer students joining the program in spring.
* Dr. Chao inquired if we will begin accepting POSTBAC students since enrollment is down. At this time only nursing and criminal justice accept POSTBAC students.
* Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs to keep financial concerns as a high priority and watch enrollments.