Natural Sciences Chairs Council

February 27, 2019

1:00pm – 1:45 pm, BI-104

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, P. Dixon, S. McMurran, B. Haddock, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, P. Orwin, C. Davis, T. Burch, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt

1. Estimated Year-End Balances
* Dr. Pantula distributed a handout summarizing estimated year-end balances for the departments as of 2/24/19. He told the chairs that they should invest their money promptly to benefit the department. Any carryover funds will revert back and the provost may take some of them back also. Her allocations will depend on how well we are investing in the support of our faculty, students and strategic goals. He reported that we are currently $658,000 in the hole, and we look ok on the books at times because a good bit of the funding is in class accounts. He also reminded the chairs to be sure that their faculty are using their professional development money. They come with a two-year expiry date also.
1. Lottery Fund
* Dr. Pantula reported there was $127,000 in the lottery fund. He tried to fund 1 equipment request per department. He pointed out that on the spreadsheet there was a green column for lottery and CERF funds per department. It is okay for the departments to spend that money at this time. There was also a yellow column for lottery and CERF monies, these are items he hopes for the college to be able to support. He informed the chairs that he hopes to be able to give them a definitive answer by March 15th.
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1. Announcements by chairs
* HSCI – Dr. Davis reported on the leadership conference that 4 of our chairs (Dr. Davis, Dr. Haddock, Dr. Chao and Dr. McMurran) recently attended in Denver, CO. She provided an overview of the conference and remarked how appreciative she was for the opportunity to attend such a dynamic event. Dr. Pantula asked if they had any material from conference to please share it with the other chairs.
* Geology – In his role as Dean’s fellow, Dr. Maynard reported that enrollment for next fall is expected to increase about 7% or 1,000 more students. Dr. Pantula passed on the provost’s expectation for the departments to search widely to enlarge their pools of qualified lecturers and to be fully prepared for the anticipated demand.
* Nursing – Dr. Burch reported that another department on campus had mistakenly sent out letters to applicants for the nursing program that they had been admitted to the program. Dr. Burch wanted the other departments to be aware of this situation. Nursing department to follow up with the other department and fix any related issues.
1. Other
* Dr. Pantula requested that the chairs publicize to their faculty the March 7th deadline ideas for PRISM funding applications.