Natural Sciences Chairs Council

October 25, 2017

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-107

In Attendance: P. Williams, P. Dixon, M. Chao, D. Smith, C. Stanton, B. Haddock, D. Maynard, S. McGill, L. Davidson-Boyd, H. Qiao, K. Cousins, R. Smith, D. Rinebolt, A. Olney

1. Assessment – Amber Olney

* Inquired of chairs how many have assessment plans in place and requested that they be sent to her by the end of the fall 2017 quarter.
* Reminded the group that new assessment plans need to be submitted when the P and C forms are due. The assessment plans are to be submitted via Blackboard, not Courseleaf.
* Distributed assessment plan templates
* Will send out assessment tools booklet after meeting today

1. Approval of minutes for October 11, 2017

* Approved as distributed

1. Informational Items:
2. Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Stanton reported that he is serving on the RDA (Rapid Data Assessment) team and he is looking for Data Fellows from the college.
* Dr. Cousins announced that they have receive 55 applicants for the position that is posted.

1. Announcements from administration

* Dr. Williams reminded the chairs of the Chairs Retreat on Friday the 27th. If they are unable to attend, please send a representative.
* Dr. Williams inquired of chairs if they found PeopleSoft wait lists of any value in aiding their planning of additional sections. A discussion followed.
* Dr. Williams informed chairs that contracts have expired for Units 2,5,7, and 9. That means there is no CTO or arbitration if there is a grievance.
* Announced that winter graduation this year will be December 9th at 9 a.m. We will be with the College of Arts and Letters. Dr. McGill will be the Grand Marshall and Arts and Letters will provide the Mace Bearer. If you need regalia for the event, please let your ASC know ASAP.
* Dr. Williams inquired if any departments are paying stipends to their students. Dr. Cousins replied that chemistry does. No other departments do this. Dr. Chao asked if CERF money could be used to do this.

1. Discussion Items:
   1. Q2S update (Doug Smith)
   * Announced that the Blackboard site is up
   * Reminded chairs that assessment forms and the C & P forms are due October 31st
   * Requested that chairs provide him with a spreadsheet of their courses offered
   1. Scheduling update (Sally McGill)
   * The college is currently at 105% of target.
   * The University is currently at 101% of target.
   * Enrollment starts on Monday, October 30th
   1. Budget (Peter Williams)

* Dr. Williams asked the chairs if they had any additional thoughts regarding the discussion on O&E from the last meeting. Dr. Williams said it seems like there is some support for taking the lottery money and putting it into one pot to share among the departments.
* Dr. Williams reported that he had met with the Provost to discuss the funding model concerning the part-time faculty budget that was discussed at the last chairs’ meeting. Additional funding will be provided for exceeding target as long as our SFR is at least 25.
* Dr. Dixon expressed concern that some of his faculty are being offered assigned time that they can’t really use and he was curious if this was happening across the colleges. He plans to bring this up to the Provost at the chairs’ meeting on Friday, October 27th.
* Dr. Williams announced that the funding for the museum conversion as come through. Construction should begin around July 2018. Biology would like to modify the original proposal which called for the current A&P lab on the BI 3rd floor to be converted into 4 labs (3 labs for biology and 1 lab for geology). Biology is now asking to modify the original proposal to where the area to be converted on the 3rd floor be made into 2 faculty offices and 2 research labs. Dr. Williams asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to address this modified plan. Dr. Cousins and Dr. Dixon volunteered to be on the committee.
* Dr. Cousins inquired about the discussion last meeting regarding the sharing of CERF funds. Dr. Williams reported that he had only heard back from the nursing department and they were okay with the idea.

1. Other:

* Next meeting November 8th