Natural Sciences Chairs Council

November 16, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, D. Maynard, L. Mian, B. Haddock, M. Jetter, T. Burch,

J. Torner, L. Guzman, D. Rinebolt, R. Hernandez, T. Hernandez, S. McGill, S. Pantula

Presentation by Department of Development – A. Gastelum, T. Carlos

Approval of Minutes – October 19, November 2

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Haddock reported he is working with PDC to get a designated space for the Kinesiology Department. New faculty at PDC needs space for equipment.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department is busy advising students and working on picking up equipment.
* Dr. Chao reported that Dan Nickerson has received a high score on his NIH grant proposal and is expected to get the grant.
* Dr. Mian reported that Health Science Department is very busy with advising students and working on their department chair search.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry Department is working on lab spaces for the hybrid classes that will be scheduled for spring semester. She also shared 3 objective that the Chemistry Department has for the upcoming year.
* Dr. Guzman shared the advising group is planning spring workshops. Spring orientations will be held this Thursday and Friday. Dr. Guzman will send the chairs the list of expected attendees.
* Dr. Burch announced she is moving to Palm Springs this week and will be away from her desk for a day or two. She reported that the nursing faculty and lecturers continue to be overwhelmed by all the chaos that Covid has created for their classes.
* Dr. Burch also reported that the first cohort of nursing students at PDC will begin this spring semester. She also reported that this is the first time the nursing department has experienced attrition.
* Dr. Maynard reported the Geology Department hosted Dr. Codi Lazar’s presentation, “How to Get Into Grad School”, which was well attended. He also reported the chair search is going well.
* Dr. Maynard reported the Computer Science Department is busy with ABET assessment. He also reported they are experiencing some difficulty in getting the director search underway.
* Mr. Hernandez inquired if the chairs had any feedback about the spring orientation breakout sessions that were held. The chairs responded that the break out rooms were well received and helpful.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he held a couple of drive-by events and passed out academic planners that were ordered for the CNS students.
* Mr. Hernandez reported the college has received a $75,000 grant from Edison for scholarships. He also reported that the college is the only college that has distributed all of our scholarship funds.
* Mr. Hernandez mentioned that we will hold a Day of Remembrance event via Zoom on December 2nd to honor the memories of those killed at the Inland Regional Center five years ago.
* Dr. Pantula mentioned the screening of the documentary, Unlikely on November 19th at 11 a.m.
* Dr. Jetter advised chairs to make sure that students who need the bridge course MATH 2120Q2S take it in Spring 2021 or in WinterIntersession.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. McGill shared a spreadsheet showing current enrollment and asked the chairs to review it and respond to her suggestions.
* Dr. McGill reported that she is still working on the spring reassigned time requests. She said that she hopes to have it finished by the end of the week.
* Dr. McGill reported that for winter intercession CEGE will be deciding on December 2nd what classes will move forward.
* Dr. McGill reported that summer scheduling will take place today through December 18th.
* Dr. Burch inquired if her summer program for foreign nurses will require the students fill out special forms.
* Dr. Pantula spoke with the chairs about reassigned time, sabbaticals and difference in pay leaves and how the reduced budget will affect the availability of these options.
* Dr. Pantula spoke about the withdrawal after census and the negative impact given that our enrollments are down.
* Dr. Pantula spoke on the credit/no credit option for grades. Students are asking about this. Dr. Pantula asked what did the chairs think about adding this option. Dr. Pantula reported that the credit/no credit option has rarely been used in the past. Dr. Torner stated he didn’t think it would be abused and he believes it is a good option. Dr. Maynard said he believed it would be a good option too.
* Dr. Pantula spoke with the chairs about the changes that may take place in the advising department. There is discussion about centralizing advising. He has a meeting scheduled with the Provost to discuss this later in the afternoon. Dr. Chao stated that he did not believe that centralizing advising would work for our departments/college. Dr. Pantula reported there will be a cabinet meeting to discuss this further on December 1st or December 7th
* Dr. Pantula asked the chairs if they had any suggestions for individuals to serve as STEM fellows for the Edison Grant. Currently there are only 3.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he would like to see collaborative student stations in the BI and CS buildings once we are able to return to on campus instruction. Currently we have tables and chairs available for students to work at but he would also like to add monitors for the students to use.