Natural Sciences Chairs Council

March 7, 2022

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, L. Mian, B. Haddock, M. Jetter, T. Burch, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, S. McGill, S. Pantula, R. Hernandez, T. Valencia

Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2022

* Minutes of the February 14th meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department has completed their interviews. There is a meeting scheduled for this afternoon for the department to meet and make a decision.
* Dr. Todd reported the Geology Department is making adjustments for the return to face-to-face classes.
* Dr. Mian reported the Health Science Department has completed their interviews for the chair position and will vote on a candidate this week.
* Dr. Burch reported the Nursing Department has its Dedication to the Profession ceremony this afternoon. She also reported the nursing department will be completing the interviews with candidates this week.
* Dr. Jetter reported that there have been two more candidates for the AVP of ASUA that will be interviewed this week.
* Dr. Cousins reported that the ISSUES-X and STEM grants still are in need of administrative personnel.
* Dr. Dajani reported the Computer Science Department has been very busy lately. They are still doing interviews for the faculty position and working on ABET accreditation issues. Additionally there is VETI grant work.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Maynard reported that there are still funds available to hire tutors.
* Dr. Maynard reminded the chairs of the Open House that will be held for admitted transfer students in STEM majors on April 8th. There will be events held throughout the day.
* Dr. Escalante reported he has been working on updating the job description for counselors. One more of the counselors has resigned but things seem to be stabilizing now.
* Dr. Escalante reported that there are tutors available for basic courses at the Science Center.
* Dr. Escalante reported that 24 proposals have been received for the summer research program. OSR will fund 10 of them and CNS will fund a few also through the PATHS grant.
* Mr. Hernandez reported the call for the outstanding alumni award will go out this week.
* Mr. Hernandez informed chairs that the outstanding faculty award winners will receive their $1,000 in professional development funds not in a stipend.
* Mr. Hernandez informed chairs that they will represent the donor for scholarships without a donor at the Sweet Success event.

Overview of Student Affairs – VP Oliverez

VP Oliverez gave an overview of the student affairs program – the 3 divisions 1) student development and engagement; 2) health and wellness and 3) student success and educational equity program and the 21 departments within those divisions.

Announcements by Administration (continued)

* Dr. McGill provided the chairs with a scheduling update:
  + 3/14 fall advising begins
  + 4/25 Fall registration begins
  + 4/4 Spring schedule build begins
* Dr. McGill spoke about lecturer evaluations. Departments have always been responsible for the coordinating the evaluation of part-time lecturers, and now will also do so for full-time lecturers. Dr. Cousins asked if it was necessary to use Interfolio for the evaluations as getting SOTEs to the department is an issue. Dr. McGill suggested emailing [sotesteam@csusb.edu](mailto:sotesteam@csusb.edu) for help with obtaining SOTEs.
* Dr. McGill reported that a review of the policy regarding online classes will be addressed at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow.
* Dean Pantula reported that we have had a 12% decrease in transfer students this year. Mr. Hernandez is working on increasing recruitment of our students. Dean Pantula reminded the chairs to make sure they are offering enough seats in classes so that students do not have to wait a semester to get a class they need.
* Dean Pantula asked the chairs to think about ways that we can support our faculty and let him know any ideas they may have.