Natural Sciences Chairs Council

April 3, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, J. Torner, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, S. Pantula, S. McGill, D. Maynard, G. Escalante

Research Visibility Discussion – Monty Van Wart

Spoke with the chairs on the importance of including important and up to date data in their faculty profiles on the campus web site.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the March 20, 2023 meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department is opening another search for an IT person.
* Dr. Cousins reported that David Murillo, a chemistry student, has received the prestigious Goldwater Award.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Mathematics Department had begun advising this week.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that the Kinesiology Department’s search for a new faculty member was successful.
* Dr. Dabbs also reported that tomorrow, April 4th they will have a guest speaker, Dr. Brent Ruby a professor from the University of Montana give a presentation on the physical demands of wildland firefighting.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Mathematics Department was surprised to learn that holds that were placed on students’ records to require them to receive advising by the department were removed by ASUA without their knowledge.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department held a very successful field class over spring break.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science & Engineering is having a very difficult time hiring candidates. They are currently working on their third pool of candidates.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the that the department has completed their MS program review.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department has completed their campus visits with candidates. The department is also hopeful their staff positions will be filled soon.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics and Astronomy Department has two candidates coming to campus in the next couple of weeks.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Escalante reported that he has sent a draft document regarding the DEI committee for their review. He asked the chairs to let him know by May who will be the department representative. He asked for thoughts about the number of times per month the committee should meet, and about the length of the term of service. Dr. Todd suggested that the committee should submit an annual report to the dean yearly. Dr. Escalante said he will revise the document to include the recent suggestions by the chairs.
* Dr. Maynard spoke to the chairs about the Choose CSUSB event that took place this past Saturday. He reported that he was very pleased with our college’s participation in the event and it was very successful.
* Dr. Maynard spoke about the SOAR orientation plans being proposed. The proposal calls for first time freshman to have 12 sessions in the month of June and the transfer students to have 8 sessions. Dr. Maynard reported that what our college did last year for SOAR worked really well and he believes we should repeat that for the upcoming SOAR in June.
* Dr. McGill reported that fall registration will begin on April 24th. May 12th Open Enrollment will begin. On May 24th, all new first-year students will be enrolled in classes.
* Dr. McGill spoke to the chairs about NSCI 3001, which is a proposed new course in the GE category B5 that is also a Writing Intensive course. She asked if any departments would like the class to be cross listed in their department to let her know.
* Dr. McGill reported that the chairs should let their faculty know that there are specific criteria for range elevations. Some submissions were not complete. The information concerning range elevations is in the FAM.
* Dr. McGill announced to the chairs that she will be stepping down as Associate Dean at the end of summer 2023. She will continue as a Dean’s Fellow to help with the transition for the new Associate Dean.
* Dean Pantula asked the chairs what thoughts on the replacement were and the chairs suggested that it would be the best to have an interim associate dean and conduct a more rigorous search in Fall 2023 for a more permanent AD.
* Dean Pantula reported that he had submitted 21 position requests to the Provost and he indicated to the Provost that 15 of those positions are critical.
* Dean Pantula reported that because of the situation with low enrollment, some CSUs have started a hiring chill.
* Dean Pantula reported that his recommendations for the two new chair positions have been submitted to the Provost.