Natural Sciences Chairs Council

May 1, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the Chemistry Department is holding its end of the year recognition event this week.
* Dr. Cousins announced that Douglas Smith will be serving as the chair of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department for the next 3 years.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department has been successful in their search for two new faculty members. They were unsuccessful in their lecturer position however. They are still in the process of filling their staff positions.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science and Engineering held an advising event and 450 students attended.
* Dr. Dajani reported the department has been successful in hiring one of their candidates. Another candidate they are waiting to hear from and another candidate is in the process of being offered a position.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department will be holding an alumni event a week from this coming Saturday. On May 9th, the department will hold its graduation event.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department will hold its Fehn Scholarship event on May 12th.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the Health Science and Human Ecology Department held an Open House last Friday, April 28th. They learned that Friday is not a good day to hold an event for students as there are fewer students on campus.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the department is continuing in their search for additional faculty.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics and Astronomy Department has submitted a request for another candidate and have received permission. The department is dealing with difficulty in finding lecturers to teach classes in the fall.
* Ms. Valencia informed the chairs that a report of open travel requests has been sent to the department ASCs. These need to be closed.
* Ms. Valencia informed the chairs that May 8th is the deadline for submitting requisitions.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she will be meeting with Faculty Affairs and Development to start the process for the summer contracts.
* Dean Pantula reported for Mr. Hernandez, that the outstanding student awards event will be held May 12th. Chairs should attend this event.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Escalante gave a report on the availability of space for the Nursing department and the Kinesiology department at the PDC campus. The proposal is that HS 107 will become a dedicated Kinesiology teaching and research lab, and the Nursing courses that have previously been taught in the HS-107 classroom will move to HS-109, where the Nursing department will have priority for scheduling, even though HS-109 will remain a shared classroom. The computers from HS 107 will be moved into HS 109. He is continuing to work on finding office space for a faculty for both nursing and kinesiology. Discussion followed about the small number of CNS courses that would need to be taught in a building other than HS. Dr. Chao indicated that BIOL 2230 and 2240 could be taught in another building as long as the days and times remain the same.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he had sent the CNS DEI document to the chairs last week. It was decided that the years of service will be staggered so that there is always someone with experience serving on the new committee. There will be a total of 5 positions on the committee.
* Dr. Escalante reminded the chairs that the CNS space inventory is due this Friday and requested that any updates be sent to him before that.
* Dr. Maynard shared a spreadsheet with the FTF SOAR dates/times. He requested that 5 chairs attend each of the meetings. He provided a suggested schedule for the chairs.
* Dr. Maynard reported that advising holds will no longer be placed on students’ records. This information was not well received by the chairs. It was suggested that Dr. Lesley Davidson-Boyd, Tanner Carroll and Amy Braceros be invited to the next chairs’ meeting to discuss this decision. Dr. Todd mentioned that student success is based on contact with faculty and eliminating advising holds will have a significant impact on students meeting with faculty.
* Dr. McGill reported that Kelly Campbell has requested that departments list classes that will be offered over the next two years on their web site. Dr. Cousins reported that the departments’ roadmaps already contain that information.
* Dr. McGill asked the chairs to look at the wait lists for their summer and fall courses and consider adding some additional sections.
* Dr. McGill reported that fall enrollment had started last week. The college is at 37% of target and the university is at 36%.
* Dr. McGill reported that chairs can now schedule classes for Spring 2024 in any open rooms.
* Dr. McGill reminded chairs that the CNS Statement on Distributed Learning, which was developed and approved by the chairs, limits faculty to teaching 2 classes online per semester, and some departments will need to limit faculty to 1.5 courses online per semester in order to maintain appropriate percentage of course sections that are in-person, as described in the statement.