Natural Sciences Chairs Council

May 2, 2022

1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Risk Management Presentation – Lynniece Warren, Executive Director of Risk Mgmt.

* PowerPoint presentation on post-pandemic reset by Risk Mgmt.

Transfer Student Enrollments – Dr. Chao spoke of the issue where students are not able to register for class unless the course is a one-to-one match with the prereqs. Spoke with Amy Braceros about possible “fixes”. She suggest a dummy course with 0 units be created. Department could enroll student in the dummy course and then you put the dummy course as a prerequisite for the course. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of a dummy course in the different departments. Biology volunteered to pioneer the process.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department is working on submitting another grant request similar to the STEM Grant.
* Dr. Torner reported he has been busy dealing with registration issues. He has done a lot of advising the past few weeks.
* Dr. Mian reported the MSHSA program recently had their accreditation visit. The report noted a lot of issues and the program may not get accreditation at this time. He also mentioned that the MPH and PH accreditation visits will be happening in the near future.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry Department is celebrating the arrival of the liquid nitrogen they needed. Dr. Cousins also reported that she has been busy getting students registered into the classes they need.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science and Engineering had submitted their final report for the ABET accreditation.
* Dr. Haddock reported there had been some confusion over Kinesiology classes being offered at PDC and he has been working to rectify that.
* Dr. Todd reported she has been very busy advising students and planning the end of the year event for geology students.

Announcements by Administration

* Mr. Hernandez spoke with the chairs about the possibility of recording a video that could be played for students when they attend the various orientations over the summer. He gave a brief demonstration of what that may look like.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she is finishing up the reporting on the HERFF funds. She also reported that she is reviewing the budget plans that the departments submitted at the end of April.
* Dr. Maynard reported that the Open House events have finished. It reported that it was a lot of work for an event that had a low response.
* Dr. Escalante reported the STEM Center search for advisors is still ongoing. They are hoping to have more applicants.
* Dr. McGill asked chairs to please check their summer schedules as some classes are already full and the possibility of adding other sections is an option.
* Dr. McGill asked chairs to check their fall schedules as some fall classes are already full.
* Dr. McGill reported that there are now two new dashboards – New Pack Enrollment and Transfer Orientation.
* Dean Pantula asked chairs to think about ideas for strategic planning. He asked them to review the pages that he sent them and give him feedback.
* Dean Pantula spoke to the chairs about the disengagement of students that we are experiencing post pandemic. He asked them to send him ideas of ways to improve student involvement.
* Dean Pantula spoke with chairs about the possibility of faculty “adopting” students to foster relationships with them.
* Dean Pantula encouraged chairs to think about VETI grants as a source of funding for equipment needs.
* Dean Pantula spoke to the chairs about new hires and the need to make sure there are offices for new faculty this year and for future searche.