Natural Sciences Chairs Council

May 4, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, M. Chao, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, T. Burch, B. Haddock, T. Rizzo, D. Maynard, J. Torner, T. Valencia, L. Guzman, D. Rinebolt, R. Hernandez

ADVANCE DEPTH PRESENTATION (Associate Provost, Seval Yildirim and ADVANCE DEPTH, Executive Director, Donna Garcia)

* Presentation of DEPTH (diversity, equity, promotion, tenure, hiring) program whose mission is to support recruitment and retention of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields.
* A recent study showed that the makeup of the average search committee is 57% white males, 30% white females, 5% underrepresented males and 3% of underrepresented females.
* The diversity of the faculty affects underrepresented students.
* Donna Garcia stressed the importance of diversity in our hiring practices.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Haddock reported that he has received a great deal of emails from students concerning registering for fall semester at PDC.
* Dr. Guzman stressed the importance of students attending the SOAR meetings led by Undergraduate Studies. Information has been sent to incoming students regarding these meetings. Meetings are 2 to 3 hours in duration and students’ holds will be released after attending the University session. Registration instructions will be provided by Undergraduate Studies. Freshman will receive pre-populated MyCap plan for the first semester. Concerns were expressed by faculty on pre-populated MyCap plans.
* Dr. Guzman reported that there will also be a college-led new student information meeting for each department.
* Dr. Maynard reported that both the geology and math departments are not wondering about labs. They believe they will be back for fall semester.
* Dr. Rizzo reported that the health science and human ecology department will be voting on the hiring of the environmental health candidate later today. He also reported that the department is developing policy and procedures for the department. Several faculty have an interest in changing the name and mission of the department.
* Dr. Torner reported that the physics department has started advising for the fall semester. They are using EAB for scheduling advising appointments and it is working well.
* Dr. Cousins reported that the chemistry department has been discussing labs for the fall semester. They have set up Blackboard to use for advising.
* Dr. Chao said that he had nothing to report.
* Dr. Qiao reported that the department had recently submitted their ABET assessment materials.
* Dr. Burch reported that she had recently finished the RPT documents and is now dealing with problems the Covid virus has created for clinicals for nursing students.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Pantula reported that the general consensus is that classes for fall semester will be online. Faculty have expressed an interest for additional training if classes will be held online.
* Dr. Pantula reported that the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences have a committee of faculty to assist with questions regarding online development of classes.
* Dr. Chao announced that Carol Hood and the ISSUES-X team have been hosting on-line CNS faculty check-ins on Fridays from 11 a.m. until noon regarding class planning if anyone needs help.
* Dr. Burch reported that her faculty are struggling to keep afloat with all that is going on. They don’t have time for training.
* Dr. Torner reported that this is a very difficult time for his faculty as well. First the development of content for classes moving from quarter to semester and now making those “first-time” classes online. He mentioned that he may have to change the classes that physics has scheduled to offer for fall semester as a couple of them cannot be offered online.
* Dr. Pantula reported that the CSUs and UCs have lost millions of dollars in revenue and incurred additional expenses as a result of Cofid-19. The projected cut would be about 5% or about $860,000 loss in revenue for our college.
* Dr. McGill reported that summer registration begins today.
* Dr. McGill asked the chairs to look at the college workload and assigned-time policy that is on our website. She would like the chairs’ input on the policy.
* Dr. McGill also spoke to the chairs about the large lecture policy and its conversion from quarters to semester. She suggested it remain the same that enrollment from 120-179 would equal one additional WTU and enrollment above 180 would equal two WTUs.
* Dr. McGill asked the chairs to think about the number of hours a week that a student assistant should work, should the faculty member opt for a student assistant rather than additional WTUs Currently 60 hours = 6 hours per week on quarters For semesters 60 hours = 4 hours per week. Dr. Chao asked if Dr. McGill knew which was utilized more – extra WTUs or student assistants.