Natural Sciences Chairs Council

September 7, 2022

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, T. Tolar-Peterson, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, J. Torner, D. Rinebolt, S. Pantula, T. Valencia, R. Hernandez, S. McGill, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, B. Wang, S. Perez-Gamboa

OnBase Presentation – Arvin Zhou

Meeting Minutes – Minutes for August 15th were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Cousins reported that the Chemistry department’s enrollment is up and students are showing up for classes.
* Dr. Torner reported that he has received applications for the open position in the Physic’s Department. He mention that he is a little concerned because the names of the applicants are being transmitted with the applications which should not be happening.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department had 2 VETI grants funded and beginning to purchase items.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the Health Science and Human Ecology Department is busy preparing for accreditation visit for their Public Health Program.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department is so thankful for the IST new hire, Charley and the assistance she has provided for the geology faculty working at PDC
* Dr. Todd inquired if other departments were dealing with students not wearing masks in class and how they were handling that.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the enrollment in both their grad and undergrad programs in the School of Computer Science & Engineering is up.
* Dr. Dajani also reported the CSE ABET accreditation has been extended through 2026.
* Dr. Dabbs reported the Kinesiology Department is experiencing significant issues with transfer students and advising.
* Dr. Dabbs also shared that she would like to see a better sharing of information concerning events that are happening on the PDC campus.
* Dr. Jetter shared that the Mathematics Department is experiencing the same issue with transfer students and advising that Dr. Dabbs spoke about.
* Dr. Escalante reported the STEM Center has hired a new program director. Francine Bonneville has begun working as the new program director.
* Dr. Maynard shared with the chairs information about the transfer orientation. He said the videos that were made worked well and he recommends using them again

Dr. Chao expressed his concerns that there has been no announcement made about what will be the policy moving forward concerning the masking mandate. The deadline (September 16th) is rapidly approaching and there has been no information on what will happen next. He is also concerned about the number of indoor events that are being planned. Discussion ensued and it was agreed upon that a joint letter should be sent to President Morales urging him to continue the mask mandate through the rest of the academic year.

Announcements by Administrators

* Ms. Valencia reminded the chairs that equipment requests are due.
* Mr. Hernandez thanked the chairs for their response to possible retreat dates. He also asked chairs to share with him any events that are taking place so that he can make sure they are posted so students are aware of them. Also, to work through him any news releases that the departments would like to see go out, rather than contacting stratcom directly.
* Dr. McGill reported that Fall census is Monday, September 19th. It is the last day that students will be able to add or drop classes. Chairs should remind faculty to ensure that any students who are taking supervision courses with them are registered by census date. The WTU for supervision courses are determined by the number of students enrolled as of census date.
* Dr. McGill reminded chairs that October 10th the spring schedule will be visible to students. October 31st enrollment will begin.
* Dean Pantula welcomed the new chairs to CSUSB and the College of Natural Sciences.
* Dean Pantula shared that Dr. Chao and Dr. Cousins have announced that this will be their last year serving as department chairs. Dr. Jetter and Dr. Torner are going to apply for another term.
* Dean Pantula reported that Provost has approved money for Spring reassigned time for faculty. We need to have a committee to decide who will get the reassigned time based on the applications submitted. He asked if the CEC or a subcommittee of the chairs, would be the appropriate committee to do this.
* Dean Pantula announced the President will announce the telecommuting policy in the next week. It will include the ability for staff to work from home up to two days a week if approved by the dean/departments.
* Dean Pantula announced the budget should be coming sometime this month. The deadline for departments to submit their requests is Friday, September 9th.