Natural Sciences Chairs Council

February 6, 2019

3:00pm – 5:00pm, BI-104

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, P. Dixon, S. McMurran, B. Haddock, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, M. Chao, C. Davis, A. Fangonil-Gagalang, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt

1. Study Abroad Presentation (HK Oh and Elva Salgado)
* Dr. Oh showed a video about the Maxiomo Nivel program and the opportunities available to students. After the video Ms. Salgado spoke about her experiences with the program and how she believed this would be an extremely beneficial experience for our students.
1. Approval of the minutes
* Minutes from the January 16, 2019 meetings were approved.
1. Announcements by Dean
* Dr. Pantula announced that 4 of our faculty received the research award – 3 from chemistry and 1 from biology.
* Dr. Pantula reported that Susan Addington and Larry Mink submitted proposals regarding open access educational resources and adaptive technology, and both advanced to the next round. Full proposals are due in March.
* Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs of the upcoming visits by the candidates for the Director of Advising position as well as the Director of Administrative Operations and Marketing position. He encouraged the chairs to attend the open forums to meet with them and to encourage their faculty and staff to attend as well.
* Dr. Pantula reported that the A4US grant is hiring additional STEM counselors and will be housed in the new TC office space.
* Dr. Pantula announced that search for an Associate Dean will be starting soon.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he is still working on the lottery money distribution. He hopes to have this finalized soon.
1. Update on the Status of Searches
* Biology – has 5 candidates and they have interviewed 4 of them so far. They will make their final decision next week.
* CSE – just completed the Zoom interview process.
* Math – has completed their search and the files are now with Academic Affairs.
* Kinesiology – currently has 3 searches taking place. They have invited 6 candidates to come to campus. Four of those have been interviewed so far and the remaining two candidates will be interviewed in the next few days.
* HSCI – Nutrition and Food Science concentration has 3 candidates coming to campus in the next week.
* Nursing – Originally had 5 candidates, but two dropped out. Of the three remaining candidates, one has been interviewed and the remaining two will be interviewed next week.
1. Course Substitutions
* Discussion took place as to the processing of course substitutions as we move into the semester system. Chairs are to send a list of the faculty members they wish to participate in this process to either Dr. Pantula or Dr. Maynard. Professional advisors are not included in this process at this point.
1. Dr. McGill’s Updates
* Spring advising began February 4th
* Registration for spring classes begins February 11th
* February 15th is the deadline for roadmaps and course clean up.
* Dr. McGill distributed a chart of the semester room allocations and asked the chairs to review it. She announced there are two more large lecture halls and 4 additional classrooms in the new CEL building that will be completed in Fall 19. Of the 4 new classrooms, one is an active learning classroom and three are lecture halls.
1. Dr. Pantula’s Updates
* Admissions has reported that we have received just under 10,000 applications for the upcoming school year. Other colleges’ chairs are sending out letters to their new students. If you would like, the registrar’s office will send out letters for you, if you will provide them with the letter that you would like sent to your majors. Dr. Maynard reported that he has a letter that is going to be sent to possible geology majors. The chairs requested that he send them a copy of his letter.
1. Workload/assigned time Discussion
* Dr. Pantula reported that the provost requires that the colleges have a policy concerning workload/assigned time developed by the end of the quarter. He distributed a handout of possible guidelines to be considered when developing the policy. Dr. Cousins said she would like the committee to also review the existing policy concerning large lecture classes. She pointed out that there is a big difference between a class of 120 students with multiple choice exams and a class of 120 where the exams are essays.
* Dr. Pantula asked the chairs to send recommendations for faculty to serve on this committee to him by this Friday, February 8th. Dr. Cousins said that Brett Stanley had expressed an interest in serving on this committee. Dr. Maynard said that Joan Fryxell had also expressed an interest in serving. Chairs are to review the handout provided by Dr. Pantula of suggested guidelines and then send their suggestions to the committee.
1. Announcements by Chairs
* Dr. Davis reported the environmental health program had just completed a visit by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council. She said they were very impressed with our program.
* Dr. Dixon reported that a couple of physics students had presented at the Research Competition that was held on February 1st.
* Dr. Cousins reported three faculty from Chemistry & Biochemistry received summer research Fellowships from the Office of Student Research (J. Burke, J. Mallari, A. Beyersdorf). She also reported that the Learning Lab proposal for adaptive learning in general chemistry (Larry Mink, CSUSB lead) was one of 6 proposals invited to move forward (out of 24 submitted). Additionally four students from Chemistry & Biochemistry competed in the Research Competition last Friday
* Dr. Haddock reported that he has a meeting scheduled at PDC to discuss the offering of a new concentration within kinesiology at that campus. He also reported that kinesiology had four students compete in the Research Competition last week.
* Dr. Chao reported that biology has several students interviewing for admission to PhD research programs all over the country. He also reported that Sean Ganther (BA Biology '16) and currently a DDS/PhD student at UC San Francisco came back to campus to present a seminar to the department, and also was a speaker at the MAPSS conference.
* Dr. Maynard reported that several geology students had presented at the Research Competition last week.
1. Other
* Dr. Pantula reported the CNS Advising Center held an Open House today. They gave a tour of their new offices and passed out donuts to all who came by to visit.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he attended the Pastries with the Provost event this morning. He said that the CNS faculty who were there expressed an interest in doing something like a TED talk about their research.