Natural Sciences Chairs Council

January 2, 2019

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-104

In Attendance: S. Pantula, P. Dixon, S. McMurran, B. Haddock, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, M. Chao, T. Valencia, D. Maynard, C. Davis, T. Burch, D. Rinebolt

1. **Informational Items**:
   1. Announcements by chairs

* Dr. Dixon reported that the physics department is involved in a proposal to NASA NSPIRES grant program. He, Sara Callori and Tim Usher are co-PI’s on the proposal, Center for Research and Education on UAS Autonomy, Safety, and Integrity.
* Dr. Haddock reported that he is working with the College of Extended Learning for a possible PA program offered through COE.
* Dr. Maynard reported that applications for the Director of CNS Advising were being reviewed with the goal of selecting candidates for zoom interview by mid-January 2019. Additionally, they have an emergency hire for HPAC position that was held by Andrew Soler. He also reported that they hope to hire 3 more STEM counselors in the upcoming months.
* Dr. Qiao reported the computer science department is beginning their search for a new faculty member.
* Dr. Burch announced that CCNE’s latest review of the nursing program has resulted in the program receiving accreditation for the next 10 years.
* Dr. Cousins announced the chemistry department has been busy adding sections of CHEM 215 to deal with the influx of students needing the course in the fall quarter.
* Dr. Chao reported that the biology department will have 5 candidates visiting the campus in the month of January. He also reported that he visited the PDC campus to assess the needs for a possible biology faculty member for that campus. He was very impressed with the labs at PDC. Dr. Chao also reported that he will be attending the CSU Biology Chairs meeting on Thursday, and hopes to address the need for a new classification for laboratory technicians that would allow them to be categorized as exempt.
  1. Announcements from administration
* Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs of the chairs’ workshop that will be held in Denver in February. He encouraged the chairs to attend this event if they are able to do so.
* Dr. Pantula announced that he is still unable to provide the chairs with their part-time faculty budget. He continues to work to provide an equitable formula for funding.
* Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs that their instrument/equipment requests need to be submitted to him by January 15th. Dr. Chao expressed concern that the current mindset of not putting monies aside to save for when expensive pieces of equipment need to be replaced is poor planning. He pointed out the autoclave on the second floor of the building. It is on its last legs. This is a vital piece of equipment and when it does stop working replacing it will not be an overnight process. The equipment alone will cost about $60,000. Installation will require plumbing and electrical issues. Many classes will have to be cancelled if this equipment is not available.
* Dr. Pantula asked the chairs to think about what they would like to accomplish this year.
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1. **Adaptive Learning – Grant Proposal: Larry Mink**
   1. Larry Mink and Andreas Beyersdorf are preparing a grant proposal and are looking for a faculty member from a STEM discipline to join with them. Larry explained what they were looking for and asked the chairs to please check with their faculty to see if anyone would be interested in working with them.
2. **Discussion Items**

\*Student Success – High Impact Practices

Dr. Cousins reported that chemistry had done a survey last winter. Some students said they had no high impact practices and some students said they had 3-5 high impact practices in their time in the program. Dr. Cousins said the higher the number of HIPs the students reported, the higher their satisfaction with the program.

\*DFWI Rates

Dr. McMurran expressed frustration with the situation EO1110. Students are not getting good advising across campus and are taking math classes that they are not prepared for. Additionally, students can enroll in any math class as there is no filter in place in the system to help them avoid enrolling in a class they do not have the necessary foundation needed to understand the concepts of the class.

\*Grad Rates

Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs to be aware of what is happening with their students as they progress through their time here at CSUSB. CSU Dashboard and IR Dashboard has a wealth of information available. Discussion ensued on the need to communicate to students that being a student is a full-time job. The chairs agreed that the majority of students do not seem to understand that there is a lot of work required of them to be successful in college.

\*Graduate Programs

Dr. Pantula reminded the chairs to come up with ideas on things the college can do to increase the quantity, quality and diversity of the applicants to our graduate programs.

\*Faculty and Staff Success

Dr. Pantula asked the chairs if they were aware of any professional development training their staff are taking and asked if they had any awareness of other needs/classes that staff might benefit from. Tina spoke briefly about the CSU Admin conference that is held annually.

Dr. Pantula asked chairs if they had any ideas about enhancing faculty research. Funding is a big issue. NSF, NIH, NASA grants will not support Dreamers. Chairs said they would love to see funds available to assist these students.

Chairs also expressed a desire for funding for publishing.

Dr. Pantula informed the chairs that there is the possibility of an extra position being available especially if it is related to PDC hiring. He asked the chairs to think about the next year’s needs as it relates to hiring. Consider the demographics and FERPs. As we transition to semesters some of our senior faculty may consider retirement. We need to be prepared. Our goal is to increase tenure track faculty density.