Natural Sciences Chairs Council

June 19, 2019

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-104

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

1. Announcements

* Dr. Pantula announced that Dr. McGill has been officially named the associate dean for the college.
* Dr. Maynard introduced Nick Hall, the new leader of the Health Professions Advising Center.

1. Informational Items
   1. Announcement by Chairs

* Dr. Burch reported FTN’s were starting their clinicals today.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he has started discussions with community colleges about documents that would assist them in helping students’ plan their transfer to CSUSB. He also asked chairs if they had any feedback on the commencement event.
* Dr. Qiao reported that the CSE department is in the last stage of their ABET accreditation process.
* Dr. Cousins reported the chemistry department had received 2 partially funded VETI awards including half of a computer lab and funding for 2/3 of a table top NMR. Chemistry and Physics are also working on putting together a new Title V grant for an MS program in Materials Science.
* Dr. Cousins also reported that Chemistry and CSE are due for a self-study this next year. She asked about permission to delay this self-study due to all the work that is yet to be done on Q2S. She also inquired as to why she was not notified of this. She reported that she discovered this while looking at the faculty senate’s website.
* Dr. Guzman reported that the advising center had hired one more STEM counselor and 2 more peer counselors. They are continuing to look to hire more advisors for the college.
* Dr. Pantula reported the following faculty had been promoted to associate professor and received tenure -
* Dawn Blue, Nursing
* Chris Gentry, Kinesiology
* Corrine Johnson, Mathematics
* Younglee Kim, Nursing
* Angie Otiniano Verissimo, Health Sciences and Human Ecology
* David Rhoads, Biology
* Amanda Rymal, Kinesiology
* Qingquan Sun, Computer Science & Engineering
* Dr. Pantula also reported that the following faculty had been promoted to full professors:
* Monideepa Becerra, Health Sciences and Human Ecology
* Carol Hood, Physics
* Yu Jung Kim, Chemistry & Biochemistry
* Paulchris Okpala, Health Sciences and Human Ecology
* Renwu (John) Zhang, Chemistry & Biochemistry

b. Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Maynard reported that he is currently working with articulation for our courses.
* Dr. Maynard reported that SOAR begins tomorrow for transfer students. He also reported that freshmen SOAR begins on July 17th.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith reported the scholarship award process is almost complete. He requested chairs get the names of students they recommend to Kevin Shaw as soon as possible.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith spoke about doing some special events for the college. He mentioned a college scholarship award ceremony and asked the chairs if they had other ideas to please reach out to him. Dr. Pantula mentioned that students had shared that they would like more science related events.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith spoke to the chairs about the Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant – a $1 million grant over 5 years. Applying for the grant is a very long process, so we have plenty of time to get a proposal together. He said the first step would be to identify someone who would be willing to serve as the program director.
* Ms. Valencia asked the chairs to have their ASCs contact her concerning professional development and start-up funds that have not been utilized by the faculty. She also informed the chairs that she will send out an email to the departments who were in the red in their part-time faculty accounts. She will be looking for money in other accounts that can be transferred into the part-time faculty account.
* Ms. Valencia informed chairs that all outstanding travel requests need to be closed by tomorrow.
* Ms. Valencia asked the chairs to please let her know if they received VETI grant monies and what it was to cover.
* Ms. Valencia reminded the chairs they need to get their faculty to sign the summer contracts and return them to her.
* Dr. Pantula asked the chairs if they had any cares/concerns concerning commencement. Discussion ensued concerning the problem with traffic and getting into the arena. Dr. Pantula shared that a student had inquired about having a shuttle bus run from the campus to the arena. He reported that it had been tried in the past but it was not utilized by many students.
* Dr. McGill reported that courses for summer and fall are full. Open enrollment began 6/17 and departments should consider opening additional sections, when feasible, to meet the demand.
* Dr. McGill reported that winter scheduling has been completed and the optimizer has been run.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that the Provost wants the dean to approve all assigned time. Our discretionary assigned time will need some adjustment. Dr. McGill distributed a form used by the College of Arts & Letters which could serve as an example on how this is done.
* Dr. Pantula inquired of the chairs how they felt about this transparency with assigned time. Chairs were willing to share with their faculty if they asked, but some departments are not comfortable with their information being shared with other departments.
* Dr. Pantula requested that the biology and computer science department submit their search committee members lists to him.
* Dr. Pantula encouraged chairs to attend the seminar with Dr. Karen Marrongelle July 8th. She is the director of HER Directorate at NSF. He also encouraged the chairs to encourage their faculty to attend this event.