Natural Sciences Chairs Council

October 3, 2018

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-104

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

1. **Approval of minutes** for September 19, 2018

Approved as distributed.

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

* Dr. Cousins announced that Andreas Beyersdorf and Larry Mink received the Silver award in the Supporting Student Success category at the Cal Tech Conference for their adaptive learning project in chemistry.
* Dr. Davis reported that 3 of the HSCI faculty will present at the APHA conference in November.
* Dr. Haddock reported that one of his faculty, Jason Ng, is working with Student Health to increase physical activity on campus. This is part of a program that is called “Exercise is Medicine” that is an outgrowth of a program started by Dr. Robert Sallis of Kaiser Fontana.
* Dr. Chao reported that Stuart Sumida was interviewed by Science Friday (NPR) concerning the impact of shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument on paleontological research. He also reported that Angela Horner is working with the BBC on filming her research on ferret biomechanics.
* Dr. Maynard reported that the Geology department had recently hosted a reception for their majors. He also reported that Bob Evan, the chief science officer for the recovery of gold from the SS Central American shipwreck gave a presentation on campus last week. This is the same project two of our geology students are working on.
* Dr. Dixon reported that Dr. Sara Callori has been invited to speak at the Women in Physical Sciences Conference in Nebraska.
* Dr. Qiao reported that the CSE lab remodel project has been completed.
* Dr. McGill announced that Dr. Becky Talyn will be awarded the Anthony and Lois Evans Professional Development Scholars Award at the FCE at 5 p.m. on October 24th.
* Dr. Burch reported the pre-licensure nursing program has a 100% NCLEX-RN pass rate for the 44 students who tested during the two most recent reporting quarters of Jan-March & March –June 2018.
  1. Announcements from administration
* Dr. Pantula gave an overview of the Rogers Scholars dinner that he attended at the PDC campus.
* Dr. Pantula inquired about the searches that are being held.
  + Nursing reported 8 applicants
  + Health Science reported 6 applicants
  + Kinesiology reported 28 applicants
  + Biology reported 160 applicants
  + Mathematics reported 20 applicants
* Dr. Pantula reported that the Provost has agreed to provide $1,000 professional development funds for all tenured and tenure track faculty. This will not include those faculty who are FERPs or on non tenure track positions. Department Chairs will receive this funding also. He also reported that if faculty wish to share their funds with another faculty member they are free to do so. He reminded the chairs that the money must be spent by the deadline or it will be taken back.
* Dr. McGill reported that the College is at 101% of target and the University is at 100% of target.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that the large lecture scheduling meeting will be held October 8th from 1 to 2 p.m. She also reminded them that Spring Quarter building starts October 15th.
* Dr. McGill requested that departments report their anticipated offerings of service courses on semesters. The link to a Google document for reporting this information has been shared with chairs. This document will help departments to prepare roadmaps for students who will finish on semesters.
* Dr. McGill reminded chairs that October 31st is the deadline for Track 3 Q2S.

1. **Discussion Items**:
   1. HPAC Coordinator

* Dr. Pantula asked chairs for their input on the hiring of the next HPAC coordinator.
  + Dr. Dixon suggested we search for a professional advisor.
  + Dr. Burch pointed out that advising between the main campus and Palm Desert campus needs to be uniform.
  1. Assessment
* Dr. McGill reported that Amber Olney will continue on as the college assessment coordinator. New software is being purchased – Campus Labs. Taskstream will no longer be used
  1. DFW Rates
* Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics have all submitted proposals and the provost is reviewing them now.
  1. Upcoming Events (Sastry Pantula)
* Homecoming Open House (October 27th) – The event will run from noon until 5:30 p.m. The college experience will take place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Health Science, Chemistry, Geology and Nursing all reported that they will host events.
  1. Graduate Programs
* Dr. Pantula reported that he had met with the Graduate Program Dean. The number of students in the graduate programs is decreasing. Chairs were asked if they had any ideas as to why this is the case. Chairs were also asked to submit information about the graduate programs that can be used for recruiting purposes. Please submit the information by the end of the month to the graduate program office for them to develop nice one page recruitment documents for us.
* Dr. Maynard suggested some of the reasons for decline in graduate enrollments could be:
  + Other schools have programs where students can get paid for their work
  + CSUSB hasn’t done the necessary recruiting
  + There seems to be less demand for a graduate degree as you can now get a degree with a BS degree
  + We don’t have the faculty to support the programs
  1. Budget
* Dr. Pantula inquired of the chairs if they had agreed on a budget model for operating funds last year. Dr. Chao reported that they had, but it was agreed upon only because it was the best option.
  1. E-Learning
* Dr. Pantula distributed information about e-learning community, and requested suggestions for names of faculty and courses that could be worked on during this year. He mentioned some of the courses which are either considered bottleneck courses or on line courses that have high DFW rates compared to their counterpart on campus versions.