Natural Sciences Chairs Council

October 18, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, L. Mian, B. Haddock, M. Jetter, T. Burch, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, S. McGill, S. Pantula, R. Hernandez

Fund Raising Campaign – Robert Nava

* Robert Nava gave a presentation on the upcoming fund raising campaign.

Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2021

* Minutes of the October 4th meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Dajani reported the School of Computer Science & Engineering is experiencing a high enrollment in their graduate program. He also reported that they are starting new programs.
* Dr. Dajani shared that the school is also working on making sure all students get the advising they need to stay on course for graduation.
* Dr. Jetter shared that the Math Department is currently dealing with the difficulties involved when students report they are COVID positive. The Math Department is averaging about two cases of COVID being reported per week with an increase to 4 cases this past week.
* Dr. Haddock reported that the Kinesiology Department is excited to report that the tennis courts are being cleaned up and resurfaced.
* Dr. Cousins reported they are having an equipment issue with the new spectrometer. An engineer is scheduled to come out this week and look at it.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department’s search committee has finished reviewing the list of applicants and will soon begin preparing the semi-finalist list.
* Dr. Todd reported that Dr. Kerry Cato will be leading a group out to the San Andreas Fault on Thursday, October 21st as part of CSUSB’s participation in the Great Shake Out.
* Dr. Mian reported the HSCI Department has added Andre Harrington to the DEC committee.
* Dr. Mian also reported a member of their chair search committee has resigned and so the department will be holding an election to replace that member later this week. They hope to begin telephone interviews this week.
* Dr. Mian also reported that the student study area (PS 227) has been renovated and now has new furniture for the students.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department has started advising for all of their students.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Homecoming Event utilizing the Observatory went very well. There was quite a significant turnout for the event.
* Dr. Burch reported on the BSN orientation for nursing that took place this past weekend. COVID has resulted in a loss of students in the nursing program, but they are hopeful the numbers will rebound as COVID becomes less of a problem.

Announcements by Administration

* Ms. Valencia reported that some of the departments’ carryover was returned to them.
* Ms. Valencia informed chairs if they were having problems with the faculty overload to reach out to her and she will assist them.
* Dr. Maynard reminded chairs of the visit from Educational Consultant, Gita Bosch taking place this week. Thursday at noon is an opportunity for students, advisors and faculty to meet and hear her address IDP (Individual Development Plan) for Students. Then at 3 p.m. there will be a seminar for faculty concerning the diversifying of faculty and how to move from a mindset of recruitment and retention to one of attraction and success.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the 7 students who were hired to work in the STEM Center will begin working next week. With the addition of these seven students and the new advisors the STEM Center is working diligently to make sure students are staying on course for graduation.
* Dr. Escalante reported they are beginning a Science Buddy Program. He is currently working to recruit senior science students to serve as mentors in this program.
* Dr. Escalante also reported the BA alternative degrees are almost ready to submit.
* Mr. Hernandez shared that the Pie the Dean Event was successful in raising over $500 for the AMA Club. He also reported that CNS had a very successful representation at Homecoming. The CNS tabling was loaded with swag and drew quite the crowd.
* Mr. Hernandez asked the chairs to encourage their faculty to participate in winter commencement. Dr. Cousins pointed out that December 6-11 is finals week and faculty will be very busy and it will be hard for them to volunteer.
* Dr. McGill provided an update on scheduling. October 22nd the spring schedule will be available to students and then November 1st registration begins.
* Dr. McGill mentioned that she has an appointment with Grace King (IT) to discuss the feasibility of tracking students to make sure that no student is graduating with greater than 50% of their classes being online classes.
* Dr. McGill gave a presentation on the ISLAB plans. The two original plans had CNS departments moving out of Jack Brown. That was unacceptable, so a third plan was developed. In this plan the math department stays in Jack Brown, but the school of computer science and engineering will move into the new building.
* Dean Pantula thanked the chairs for submitting the information needed for GI2025.
* Dean Pantula requested the chairs update their 3 year recruiting plan.
* Dean Pantula reminded the chairs of the seminar on diversity by Gita Bosch taking place this week. He encouraged them to attend.
* Dean Pantula inquired if anyone had any ideas for Sherba Lectures to please let him know.
* Dean Pantula informed the chairs of the Faculty Senate revision of articles in the FAM and asked them to watch what is going on.

At the close of Robert Nava’s presentation

* Dean Pantula asked the chairs to think about any wants/needs for the college. He asked chairs to let him know if they have any thoughts on this.
* Dr. Cousins mentioned her concerns about UEC’s inability to handle the current grants and said that this needs to be addressed at the beginning of this fund raising campaign.