Natural Sciences Chairs Council

November 1, 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

Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2021

* Minutes of the October 18th meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Haddock reported the Kinesiology Department is still busy working on its schedule for the Palm Desert Campus.
* Dr. Jetter shared that the Math Department is holding an informal on-campus memorial service honoring Peter Williams on Thursday, November 18th at 5:30 p.m.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Math Department is in the process of scheduling interviews of candidates to fill their faculty position.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science and Engineering is currently working on their faculty search. They have completed the interviews for their ASC position and after the pending background checks they will make an offer.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry Department is busy working on scheduling issues.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department has received 22 applications for their faculty position and is in the process of narrowing down the candidates.
* Dr. Maynard reported that Transfer Orientation Day will be held tomorrow, November 2nd.
* Dr. Burch reported the Nursing Department is very busy looking for faculty to teach in the spring semester.
* Dr. Burch also reported the Nursing Department has not been very successful in their faculty searches. So far there is only one candidate for the chair position and four candidates for the faculty position.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department is working on their search for new faculty. They have nine candidates and he is very pleased with the pool of candidates.
* Dr. Mian reported the Health Science & Human Ecology Department is actively working on their three searches. They are beginning to hold interviews in the chair search. They have received three applications for the EHS position so far. The ASA search has been completed and an offer has been made to that person.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department has received about 100 qualified applicants for their faculty search. They will begin the review process this week.
* Dr. Torner reported student advising is underway and most of their students have made appointments for the mandatory advising.
* Dr. Torner reported the Physics Department had an initial schedule conflict with a course at PDC that was conflicting with courses required in the College of Education. Dr. McGill helped resolve the problem.

Announcements by Administration

* Dean Pantula shared that CNS will host a Nobel Prize talk with Dr. Chao and Dr. Cousins who will discuss the recently announced Nobel Prizes in Chemistry and Medicine or Physiology, the award recipients, and why the discoveries being recognized are significant
* Dr. Escalante reported that the STEM Center sent out letters to students not registered in classes, telling them they need to register or file for a Leave of Absence or they will be dropped by the University.
* Dr. Escalante reported the STEM Center has started their Science Buddies program pairing 15 students in their initial group.
* Dr. Escalante also shared the Department of Kinesiology and Kinesiology Student Association will be hosting two-time Olympic medalist and world-class weightlifter Sarah Robles on Nov. 9 to give a “Defying the Odds to Olympic Glory” talk.
* Dr. Escalante gave an overview of the CNS PATHS Summer Research Fellowship. It is a 10 week mentored research experience designed to support teams of one faculty and two students as they pursue a significant research project during the summer of 2022. PATHS Faculty Fellows will receive a $5,000 stipend for their participation and student researchers will receive $3,000. PATHS Fellows will also receive up to $500 for travel to present their research at a regional or national conference.
* Dr. McGill provided an update on scheduling. November 8th registration for Winter Intersession begins. November 1st, registration for spring semester begins. Dr. McGill also reminded chairs that supervision classes need to be finalized before census for faculty to get credit.
* Dean Pantula asked chairs to share some of the challenges they are facing and he inquired as to how the advising process is going. Discussion ensued
  + Changing programs without discussion with faculty. General consensus was frustration with administrators who decide the change programs without any real input or discussion with faculty. Example – dropping of Blackboard created all kinds of havoc for faculty and students.
  + Departments are experiencing issues with advising by advisors not really knowledgeable of department’s classes. Students are not getting the quality of advising they would receive if they met with faculty advisors.