Natural Sciences Chairs Council

February 1, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, D. Maynard, B. Haddock, M. Jetter, T. Burch,

J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, R. Hernandez, S. McGill, S. Pantula

Presentation by Dr. Audrey Reille, LLCI.

* Dr. Reille works with leaders in higher education administration. She spoke about how to thrive by reducing stress, optimizing strategies, having more influence, improving professional relationships, and developing a strong and empowered mindset.

Approval of Minutes

* Minutes of January 21st meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Pantula asked if any of the chairs had any announcements they wanted to share with the council. No one responded.

Announcements by Administration

* Mr. Hernandez reported that the college has been asked to participate in the Coyote Connect event that is scheduled for February 23rd. This is an event for students who have been newly admitted and those student who have applied.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he is working with Graduate Studies to host an event on March 11th to get prospective students interested in CNS graduate programs. The event will feature a brief overview of CNS graduate programs, information provided by Graduate Studies representatives and then a Q&A or breakout rooms for students who may want to ask questions.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that March 18th there will be an event, Celebration of Teaching, for students who want to be K-12 teachers.
* Mr. Hernandez also requested that chairs begin to think about who they would like to nominate for this year’s outstanding alumnus.
* Dr. McGill encouraged chairs to look at the pdf file Sastry circulated yesterday evening, showing Institutional Research’s estimate of number of students who may be interested in taking certain courses in Summer 2021.
* Dr. McGill indicated that our College is planning to build the Fall 2021 schedule assuming that there will be no social distancing requirements (Plan A).  After the schedule is built, Dr. McGill will work with chairs to create a spreadsheet listing a Plan B schedule to which we could pivot if we are only allowed to fill classrooms to 50% capacity (e.g., by moving large classes online and moving face-to-face courses into larger rooms).  If we must reduce classroom to capacity to <50%, it is likely that most classes will be online (similar to AY 2020-21).  Campus discussions about Fall 2021 scheduling are ongoing.
* Dr. McGill also reported that the college schedulers had requested that we not use the optimizer for Fall 2021.  Dr. Jetter indicated that this might cause difficulties for the Math department.  Dr. McGill said she would bring this up for reconsideration with the college schedulers.
* Dr. Pantula mentioned that we are currently planning on returning to face-to-face classes in the fall semester. He asked the chairs if we do come back to face-to-face classes, did they have any thoughts about faculty who would want to continue to teach online. Dr. Torner emphasized that it is important for labs to be in person for the maximum efficiency. Dr. Torner asked Dr. McGill if she would look into general rules about offering courses online, such as whether faculty senate approval is required. It was mentioned that for WASC accreditation we definitely cannot have more than 50% of our classes online. After the meeting, FAM 827.3 “Distributed Learning Policy” was circulated to the chairs.

<https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/upload/file/FAM%20827.3%20Distributed%20Learning%20Policy_0.pdf>