Natural Sciences Chairs Council

February 15, 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

Approval of Minutes

* Minutes of February 1st meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Torner reported that he was busy catching up on little things in the physics department
* Dr. Jetter reported that the mathematics department held a career panel last week which was greatly enjoyed by all
* Dr. Burch reported that struggling trying to comply with the university’s desire for evaluations of lecturers and the reality that clinical sites do not want to allow unnecessary people at their sites.
* Dr. Burch also reported that the nursing department had received permission to have their exams held on campus as long as they practiced social distancing guidelines. The number of students permitted in large classrooms makes this virtually impossible. They would have to have multiple classrooms in use at the same time across campus and that just isn’t feasible.
* Ms. Rinebolt reported that requests for classroom visitations will go out in the next few days. She reported that almost every faculty has been asked to perform a visitation.
* Dr. Haddock reported the kinesiology department is busy with the part-time lecturer reports and range elevation reviews.
* Dr. Mian reported the health science department is beginning its search for a department chair. Pool has been approved by diversity committee and now interviews are beginning. They have 11 candidates in their pool. He also reported the department is busy with its part-time lecturer evaluations and range elevation reports.
* Dr. Maynard reported the geology department had six candidates for its department chair position. They now have 4 candidates they will begin to interview for the position.
* Dr. Maynard reported the school of computer science has 35 applicants for its director position. They are beginning to hold interviews now.
* Dr. Cousins reported that the chemistry department is dealing with the same issues as the other departments. She also announced that the S-STEM program now has 4 new scholars.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she is working with the departments on mid-quarter projections which are due to the provost next week.
* Mr. Hernandez reminded everyone that Dr. Rita Colwell, former NSF Director, will be giving a virtual presentation on climate and COVID on February 16th.
* Mr. Hernandez also spoke of a webinar by last year’s outstanding alumnus, Paul Naik, which will take place on February 24th. Dr. Naik will share his experiences and answer questions from students during this time.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he is working with student success center to try and come up with a virtual event.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he is waiting for an email list of incoming students so that he can send out an email to the College of Natural Sciences incoming students welcoming them to CSUSB and CNS. Mr. Hernandez offered to do an individual email for the departments if they would like.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Escalante reported that he is working on a minor in entrepreneurship that will be modeled after the Arts and Letters program. He asked the chairs what they thought about that. He mentioned there is also under consideration a general science degree for students who are unable to graduate with a specialized degree in the sciences.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he has assigned a STEM center liaison for each department. They will be your point of contact with the STEM center. If you want your liaison to have EFA access, you will need to let the registrar know that it is okay.
* Dr. McGill reported the next Chair Learning Community meeting will be held Monday, March 8th from 1 to 3 p.m.
* Dr. McGill reported she is working with Mrs. Thomas (Yolanda) on providing the departments with the list of eligible students to be selected as the department’s outstanding undergraduate and graduate.
* Dr. McGill reported the college is at 90% of target to date.
* Dr. McGill reported that the optimizer will be run for the Fall 2021 schedule. This is a change of plans, as it was originally planned not to run the optimizer.
* Dr. McGill reported that she would like to meet with the chairs individually to discuss Plan B (what classes will be offered should we not return to campus for fall semester).
* Dr. Pantula reported that he has to do a presentation on the graduate programs in our college. He asked chairs to provide him with a list of their grad programs that are currently available and any future programs they are planning.
* Dr. Pantula reported on the Pioneer Breakfast which will be held February 26th. It will be a virtual event this year. We will sponsor 16 people from our college to attend. He requested the chairs submit a list of names of persons from their department wishing to attend this week.
* Dr. Pantula requested the chairs send him a name if they have a faculty member who would be interested in serving as the FCE ambassador.
* Dr. Pantula reported that if the department wants to submit a VETI application for equipment purchases, they will be required to attend a session if interested.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he needs the chairs to review the list of equipment needs they provided to him last April and prioritize them so he can plan our purchases.
* It was discussed whether we should charge the grants 10% (3/30) or 12.5% (3/24). Currently, we charge 12.5%
* Dr. Pantula reported that the Provost and President plan on holding an open forum for our college on March 8th. He asked chairs if they had any issues that they would like to have addressed so he can let the President’s office know.