Natural Sciences Chairs Council

February 7, 2022

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, S. McGill, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, S. Pantula, R. Hernandez

1. Summer Session Discussion

Dr. Tatiana Karmanova, Rose Wilson, Veronica Crossley, Tanner Carollo, Lesley Davidson-Boyd, Maria Munoz, Ruth Landeros-Buffa

Rose Wilson went over a PowerPoint presentation detailing various aspects of the summer session with CGI. Deadline dates for planning classes, go/no go decision dates, suggestions for courses to be offered and faculty workload were all addressed. It was also announced that the majority of classes would be offered online. Dr. Chao asked about the decision to offer the majority of classes online. Chairs did not seem to be aware that was going to be the plan.

Dean Pantula inquired if this would affect the WASC position that only a certain percentage of classes could be offered online without affecting our program’s credentials. Dean Karmanova said she would have to speak to the Provost about this.

Dr. Dajani asked Dean Karmanova if she could provide him information regarding international students who need to take specific CSE classes in Summer or Fall 2022.

1. Announcements by Administration
* Dr. Escalante reported that the alternative natural science/biohealth bachelor degree programs were written with the criteria of a BA degree. When they were submitted for review, the Chancellor’s office responded that they would prefer these to be BS degrees. Dean Pantula inquired of the chairs if they have any objections to these being changed to BS degrees. A couple of the chairs expressed their concerns with changing these and preferred that they remain BA degrees. Dean Pantula said he will discuss this with Dr. Weber.
1. Counseling and Psychological Services – Dr. Carolyn O’Keefe, Director
* Dr. O’Keefe spoke with the chairs about the challenges students face and the programs that are available to assist them.

Announcements by Administration (continued)

* Mr. Hernandez reported that 2 of the new signs for the Student Success Center have been installed on the building. Hopefully once the winds die down the other signs can be installed as well.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that in honor of Black History Month, CNS will have an alumna, Nicole Sparks giving a virtual presentation of her experience at CSUSB.
* Mr. Hernandez also reported that next month Tiffany Sill, a chemistry alumna will be making a presentation for students too.
* Ms. Valencia reminded chairs that mid-year budget projections are due on February 8th.
* Ms. Valencia reminded chairs that HEERF reimbursements are due by February 18th.
* Ms. Valencia reminded chairs that there are 18 states that faculty are not permitted to travel to. Be sure and check before planning to attend conferences and/or trainings.
* Ms. Valencia reported that the Provost has extended the timeline for the use of certain types of Professional Development Funds awarded to faculty.
* Ms. Valencia informed the chairs that overload payments need preauthorization in the system before they can be processed and that external grant funds that were awarded for reassigned time with a matching course release from the College may not be converted to overload salary without advance permission from the College.
* Ms. Valencia informed the chairs that the dean is giving each department $2,500 for the purchase of promotional items for the department.
* Dr. McGill reported that the college is at 83% of target and the university is at 89% of target for Spring 2022.
* Dr. McGill reminded chairs to communicate to their faculty that they should ensure that any students who are supervising student research for credit should enroll in a supervision course before census date. Enrollments after census date do not generate FTES for the campus or WTU for the faculty member.
* Dr. McGill reported that the spring 2023 schedule build will begin in April of this year.
* Dean Pantula informed the chairs that a telecommuting policy is forthcoming. This applies primarily to ASCs and ASAs. It will cover the period of March 1, 2022 to June 2, 2022. At that point the 4/10 summer schedule will take effect. Staff member will be able to telecommute one day a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. If the staff member cannot be considered for this telecommute policy, Dean Pantula will need to send a memo indicating the situation.
1. Announcement by Chairs
* Dr. Burch announced that Angie Fangonil-Gagalang’s grant to support student success was increased from $240,000 to $480,000. The Nursing Department is very excited about that.