Natural Sciences Chairs Council

March 1, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

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

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

Presentation of Next Generation Smart Classrooms

* Dr. Sudhakar and Dr. Brad Owens provided information on changes that will be taking place in the classrooms at CSUSB. Dr. Sudhakar gave an overview of the plan’s 5 different models depending on the size of the classroom. All the new equipment will be the same so that faculty do not have to be trained in using multiple types of equipment. Each college will have 25 classrooms upgraded by July 31st. The rest of the classrooms will be finished by December 31st.
* Dr. Owens spoke about the different types of equipment that will be installed. He gave a brief overview on the use of the different pieces – new camera, control panel, switcher, audio device and gooseneck mounted web cam.
* After the presentation there was discussion among the chairs of concerns about allowing students to choose to either attend class in person or virtual attendance. Dr. Chao said he had serious concerns about students not attending classes in person. Dr. Jetter expressed concern about the need for extra help in the classroom with dual types of attendance and new equipment. Dr. Chao and Dr. Burch echoed this concern as well.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Haddock reported that in cooperation with the HSCI department they had submitted a NIH grant this past week.
* Dr. Maynard reported the Geology department will be conducting four virtual campus visits this week with candidates for the chair position.
* Dr. Maynard reported the School of Computer Science and Engineering are planning their virtual campus visits this month.
* Dr. Mian reported the Health Science department completed 11 Zoom interviews of their candidates.
* Dr. Jetter reported the Math department is still working on their fall class schedule trying to make sure all the bases are covered for students needing classes.
* Ms. Valencia reported she is busy working on inter-department transfers with the ASCs.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology department submitted an NSF grant proposal.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics department is experiencing scheduling problems due to the number of FERPs.

Announcements by Administration

* Mr. Hernandez reported it is the time of year to work on the outstanding faculty awards and the outstanding alumnus award. Emails will be going out to all faculty for the outstanding faculty award process. Additionally, Mr. Hernandez inquired if there was a list of past nominees for the outstanding alumnus award. Ms. Rinebolt will look into that for him.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that last week the college held its Coyote Connect program last week and it was well received by students.
* Mr. Hernandez reported the virtual presentation by Dr. Rita Colwell, the former director of the NSF was well attended and well received. Also, the following week, Dr. Paul Naik, last year’s outstanding alumnus, gave a virtual talk and then held a question and answer session with students.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he is busy working on planning a Faculty Learning Community event. He also reported that a committee is being formed to work on developing a general science degree for the college.
* Dr. Escalante reported that most of the STEM center advisors now have EFA access.
* Dr. McGill reported there will be a Chair Learning Community meeting next Monday, March 8th.
* Dr. McGill reported that the fall schedule should be validated this week if possible. Chairs responded that their ASCs had been told to wait. Dr. McGill affirmed that ASCs should follow the instructions from Academic Scheduling about when to validate.
* Dr. McGill reported that she plans to meet with the chairs individually this week to discuss Plan B in case we can’t go back to face-to-face classes in the fall.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he is busy working on RPT documents this week.
* Dr. Pantula spoke with the chairs about the changes that are being proposed to the FAM. He forwarded several documents that detail the changes that are being considered and asked the chairs to be sure and look at them as they will be important in hiring in the future.
* Dr. Pantula reported that he will report back to the chairs later this week concerning the list of items that need to be purchased.

Discussion concerning team taught courses.

* Dr. Pantula emphasized the need for SOTEs in the evaluation of faculty. Team taught courses should be encouraged to have SOTEs for each instructor. Students like to have an opportunity to share their opinions in team taught courses also.
* Discussion ensued concerning the workload differences in teaching lectures versus active learning classes and teaching solo-taught versus team-taught courses. 50% WTU for team-taught courses short changes faculty in cases in which both faculty are present at all class meetings to assist with active learning classes. Dr. Chao, Dr. Cousins, Dr. Jetter and Dr. Haddock will work on a proposal to alleviate this inequity and present at the next meeting.