Natural Sciences Chairs Council

March 2, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm, ZOOM

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, T. Burch, B. Haddock, J. Torner, T. Rizzo, T. Valencia, L. Guzman, J. Fischer-Smith, D. Rinebolt, R. Hernandez

Dean Pantula began the meeting by speaking about the Corona virus and possible implications as we move forward toward spring quarter. Dr. Chao suggested we have more hand sanitizer dispensers installed in our building. Mr. Fischer-Smith inquired as to how permission is granted for alumni to come to campus. Dr. Pantula requested that chairs make it a priority to notify him.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr, Torner reported that the Physics Department had made a selection from their candidates and are moving forward on making an offer.
* Dr. Chao reported that the Biology Department has also made a decision and are moving forward on their offer.
* Dr. Qiao reported that she is still working on ABET and has been very busy with that.
* Dr. Maynard reported the Math Department is still taking applications for the chair position.
* Dr. Maynard reported that the Geological Science Department has concluded their candidate visits.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry & Biochemistry Department is happy to report they have received some donated equipment.
* Dr. Burch reported that Cheryl Brandt was recently appointed by the governor to a task force.
* Dr. Rizzo reported on the Health Science & Human Ecology Department’s chair search. They had two candidates and the vote was split on whether to invite them to a campus interview.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith reported on a donor event to be held this coming weekend in San Francisco. Dr. Stuart Sumida will be recognized by the Disney company for contributions he has made to the film industry.
* Mr. Hernandez reported Ms. Rinebolt is attempting to put together a list of faculty who have participated in commencement as mace bearers over the history of the college. The list will be sent to the chairs once it is finished.

Announcements by Administration

* Dr. McGill shared a handout with the chairs of possible courses to open for the spring quarter because of need.
* Dr. McGill reported that Ms. Bookman had sent out a list of students who had filed grad checks. Dr. McGill asked the chairs to review the list and make sure the students were able to get into the classes they needed so they can graduate on time.
* Dean Pantula distributed a handout related to course release. The Provost is looking at the possibility of giving one course release to untenured faculty in the 3-6 year.
* Dr. McGill spoke about the college’s annual awards given to faculty and students. Chairs should begin to think about nominations for these awards.

Dr. Lesley Davidson-Boyd

* Dr. Davidson-Boyd spoke with chairs about the concern with graduation rates being low. In an attempt to assist students with completing their programs in a timely manner, UGS will revitalize advising.
* 1st and 2nd year students’ advising will be handled by UGS.
* 3rd and 4th year students’ advising will be handled by the college.
* Discussion ensued concerning pros and cons of this plan.

Continued Announcements by Administration

* Dean Pantula spoke of the new procedure for ProCards. Environmental Health & Safety have determined that ProCards may not be used to purchase hazardous materials. It is important for EHS to be aware of all hazardous materials being purchased by the campus and ProCard usage to purchase these materials makes it nearly impossible for EHS to track all that is being bought. Requisitions are now to be used for hazardous materials purchase.
* Dean Pantula reminded the chairs of the Meetings of the Minds event and encouraged chairs to attend.
* Dean Pantula informed the chairs that PAC, currently called the Peer Advising Center would like to change their name to the Professional Advising Center.