Natural Sciences Chairs Council

August 1, 2022

1:00pm – 2:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, B. Haddock, T. Burch, J. Torner, D. Rinebolt, S. Pantula, T. Valencia, R. Hernandez, S. McGill

Meeting Minutes – Minutes for July 18th were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Haddock reported the Kinesiology Department had hired a new equipment tech, but she has quit and they are beginning the process of hiring someone again.
* Dr. Burch reported the Nursing Department is busy looking for faculty to teach classes in the Fall.
* Dr. Chao reported the Student Society for Stem Cell Research (SSSCR) will host the Inland Empire Stem Cell Research Symposium on Friday, November 4th.
* Dr. Chao also reported the SACNAS and potentially the Lambda Sigma Biology Club will co-host (together with the Biology Department) the Southwest Regional meeting for the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology on October 22nd.
* Dr. Todd reported the Geology Department’s ASC, Ella Entienne, has begun working.
* Dr. Todd also reported the geology new faculty are beginning to show up and one of them is bringing a NSF grant.
* Dr. Torner shared that the new faculty member that the Physics Department recently hired has decided to turn down the job offer and will not be joining them for the Fall semester. As a result, he has been busy trying to find someone to teach those classes.
* Dr. Dajani shared that he has been very busy working on the Fall schedule and opening new sections of classes.
* Dr. Dajani reported that he and some faculty members have a new publication that has been accepted.
* Dr. Cousins reported that the Chemistry Department has been very busy accommodating new students.
* Dr. Cousins reported the Chemistry Department is down one staff member in the stock room temporarily.
* Dr. Cousins reported that because the physics faculty member has decided not to come to work for CSUSB, it will be necessary to delay the beginning of the master’s degree for the chemistry department.
* Dr. McGill reported that she has been busy working on the fall schedule for the Health Science Department.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Escalante reported that the search for the program director for the Science Success Center has finished.
* Dr. Escalante also reported the search for the director of the new Physician’s Assistant Program has finished.
* Dr. Escalante reported the Science Success Center has had its largest recruitment of students for the new cohort which they are very happy about.
* Dr. Maynard reported that he has finished the transfer student orientations. Remaining students will meet one-on-one with the central academic advising center.
* Dr. Maynard reported that the new student orientation will be held August 9th in the Coussoulis Arena. College sessions will be held at 10:15. CNS will stay in the arena.
* Dr. Maynard reported that around 100 students have registered for the Science Success Center’s summer bridge program that will be held August 15th and 16th. Dr. Maynard said he believed he had the necessary representative from each department to attend the event.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he has updated the Science Success Center website including information on the PATHS grant.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that the CNS Convocation will be held on August 18th at 2 p.m. Chairs will introduce their new faculty and give highlights from their departments. The 4 faculty who won the CNS yearly faculty awards will also be recognized.
* Dr. McGill reported that CNS is at 96% of target and the university is at 92% of target. She thanked the chairs for their work in reaching out to students who had not yet registered for Fall Semester.
* Dr. McGill reported that a spreadsheet listing classes that are full was sent out with the meeting agenda. She asked the chairs to review the spreadsheet and see what can be done to accommodate these students who still need to get into classes.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that facilities has let her know that it will now be necessary for Facilities to get permits and fire marshal approval to make any renovations to rooms that involve moving or constructing new walls or doors in our buildings. This will result in a much longer timeframe and greater expense for any such work to be done.
* Dr. McGill reported that Dr. Pantula would like to schedule a leadership retreat sometime in September. She will work with chairs to determine a time that will best suit everyone. She inquired if there were any topics the chairs would like to discuss at the retreat.
* Dr. Chao inquired if any thought had been given by the college should the university fail to require masks for the fall semester. Concern was expressed by several chairs on problems that could arise should a mask mandate not be implemented. Discussion ensued on possible ways to deal with this but there were possible problems with each of the suggestions.
* Dr. McGill reminded chairs that Dean Pantula would like to have their budget requests submitted to him by the end of this month. Ms. Valencia is in the process of developing a form that can be used for this.
* Dr. McGill reported that supervision overloads will be processed each semester rather than letting them wait until spring semester.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, August 15th. Adjustment will need to be made to the time of the meeting because of the Science Success Center’s summer bridge program being held that day. Once a time is determined a notification will be sent out.