Natural Sciences Chairs Council

August 15, 2022

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, T. Tolar-Peterson, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, J. Torner, D. Rinebolt, S. Pantula, T. Valencia, R. Hernandez, S. McGill, G. Escalante

Meeting Minutes – Minutes for August 1st were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

Since this is the first meeting with the new chairs in attendance, Dean Pantula asked each chair to introduce themselves and share a little something about themselves.

* Dr. Cousins introduced herself and shared that she has been with CSUSB for 32 years and this is her 6th year as department chair.
* Dr. Jetter introduced herself and shared that this is her 3rd year as the chair of the Math Department.
* Dr. Dabbs introduced herself and shared that she has been at CSUSB for 10 years now and this is her 1st year as chair.
* Dr. Dajani introduced himself and shared that this is his 2nd year at CSUSB and as director of the School of Computer Science and Engineering.
* Dr. Todd introduced herself and shared that this is her 2nd year at CSUSB and as chair of the Geology Department.
* Dr. Yu introduced herself and shared that this is her 1st year at CSUSB and a chair of the Nursing Department.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson introduced herself and this is the start of her 1st year at CSUSB and as chair of the Health Science and Human Ecology Department.
* Dr. Chao introduced himself and shared that he began working at CSUSB in 2005 and this is his 8th year as chair of the Biology Department.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Escalante reported that the search for the program director for the Science Success Center has finished and the new director will begin working tomorrow.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Science Success Center held an orientation this morning and they have recruited the largest cohort in SSC history.
* Dr. Escalante also reported the search for the director of the new Physician’s Assistant Program has finished and the recommendation has been sent to the President’s office.
* Dr. Maynard reported that he is working on the SSC orientations today and tomorrow.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he has been busy preparing for the CNS Convocation which will be held this coming Thursday.
* Mr. Hernandez also reported that he has updated the CNS website and all information should be up-to-date now. .
* Dr. McGill reported that CNS is at 100% of target and the university is at 95% 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 she has sent them a spreadsheet listing classes that are still full. 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. Jie inquired if we have any ideas about getting part-time faculty to stay at our university. She reported that the nursing department is experiencing a lot of chaos with part-timers accepting teaching positions with the department (most are also working at hospitals) and then things change at the last minute leaving the department with a big problem of not having instructors for their classes.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that October 21st the spring schedule will be available to students. On October 31st students will be able to start registering for spring classes.
* Dr. Cousins commented on the new process where spring schedule is being created much earlier than in the past. The new process is not working out for the chemistry department and they will probably have to redo their spring schedule.
* Dr. Chao reported that the personnel changes at PDC have created chaos as they changed the schedule without telling them.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that they need to let Doug Smith know ASAP who will serve on the curriculum committee representing their department.
* Dean Pantula asked to share with him any ideas they might have about helping our students succeed in their classes. He also asked for suggestions on how we can invest in our faculty. Should we acquire funds, where would be the place to spend them?
* Dean Pantula spoke with the chairs about the pre-nursing students. He said we need more options for students who will not make it into the nursing program. He asked chairs to share any ideas they may have with him.
* Dean Pantula asked chairs for recommendations for guest speakers for the college. He encouraged chairs to think about that and send him suggestions.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 7th.