Natural Sciences Chairs Council

January 16, 2019

1:00pm – 3:00pm, BI-104

In Attendance: S. Pantula, S. McGill, P. Dixon, S. McMurran, B. Haddock, K. Cousins, H. Qiao, M. Chao, T. Valencia, C. Davis, T. Burch, J. Fischer-Smith, D. Rinebolt

1. Presentation by Dr. Tatiana Karmanova
* Dr. Karmanova gave a PowerPoint presentation on summer sessions over the past few years detailing the benefit to the students, departments and university on offering summer classes. Discussion ensued and Dr. Karmanova was unable to give her second presentation on self-supported programs. She said she would email the PowerPoint presentations to the chairs and encouraged them to reach out to her if they had any questions.
1. Approval of the minutes
* Minutes from the December 5, 2018, the December 19, 2018 and the January 2, 2019 meetings were approved.
1. Introduction of HPAC Advisor & update on Director Search
* Dr. Maynard introduced Arturo Gutierrez who is replacing Andrew Soler at HPAC. Dr. Maynard reported that the search committee for the CNS Director of Advising has scheduled 11 semi-finalists for Zoom interviews and they hope to have the position filled by mid-February.
* Dr. Maynard also reported that the Advising Center is holding an open house on February 6th from 11 a.m. to noon.
* Dr. Maynard informed the chairs that the Coyote Connect event is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th. He asked the chairs to be thinking about how they would like their departments represented at the event.
1. Update on Keck proposal
* Mr. Fischer-Smith reported on conversations he had with the Keck representatives over the past few weeks. He had hoped to obtain some information which would assist in determining types of projects they preferred to fund. His take-away from the conversations was that although they say that they prefer projects that are used by a lot of students and faculty, what they have actually funded seems to be out-of-the-box, innovated projects, regardless of the number of students or faculty served.
* Mr. Fischer-Smith informed that chairs that there are two cycles in this process. Because the deadline for one of the cycles is rapidly approaching, he discussed with the chairs the possibility of submitting the three projects for which LOIs were developed last year but were not carried forward to full proposals. Mr. Fischer-Smith said he would develop a timeline for the chairs to assist in the planning of projects for the 2 cycles.
1. Announcements by Chairs
* Dr. McMurran reported the math department has completed their interview process.
* Dr. Davis reported the search committee for the Health Science department will meet on the 22nd of January to discuss their Zoom interviews and decide on candidates to invite to campus
* Dr. Haddock reported the Kinesiology department will begin their on campus visits tomorrow, January 17th.
* Dr. Chao reported the Biology department’s campus visits will begin next week.
* Dr. Chao also gave an update from the biology chairs’ meeting that he attended where they discussed creating an IST position that is exempt. Currently IST positions are non-exempt. Currently this creates problems when unplanned events happen and an IST is needed but is unavailable to work.
* Dr. Burch reported the Nursing department will have 3 candidates coming to campus in January and February.
* Dr. Cousins reported that Andreas Beyersdorf will be one of the faculty mentoring students for the NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP). Projects will be environmental focused – air/water quality or soil/vegetation research.
* Dr. Cousins also reported on the 7th Annual Pre-Medical and Pre-Health Professional Conference run by the student organization MAPSS, which will be held all day, Jan 26, 2019.
* Dr. Qiao reported that Zoom interviews for their two positions will in the next two weeks.
1. Announcements from administration
* Dr. McGill accidentally reported inaccurate enrollment date for Winter 2019. The correct values for Winter 2019 as of January 16th are that the University is at 99% of target and CNS is at 101% of target.
* Dr. McGill informed the chairs that they should not cancel classes simply because the part-time budget will not cover the expenses. She told the chairs they should reach out to Dr. Pantula with their concerns. Dr. Cousins reported she had met with Dr. Pantula to discuss her situation. Dr. Haddock reported that if he does not cancel classes he will have a $50,000 deficit.
* Dr. McGill reminded the chairs that they should review their summer schedule and make sure rooms are assigned. After January 25th they will not have access to assign rooms until April 22nd. Between January 28 and April 19 access will be limited to Coyote First Step, Early Start, SOAR, EOP, Special Events and Guest Services.
* Dr. McGill reminded the chairs that semester roadmaps are due January 31st.
* Dr. McGill reported she would be participating in a meeting with Kim Nicholl to develop room schedules for semesters on January 17th. Dr. Burch commented on the fact that departments are being asked to expand their classes into the evening hours and on Saturdays. She pointed out that many rooms do not have heating or air conditioning in the off hours and said this must be addressed if they are going to offer classes at those times.