Natural Sciences Chairs’ Council

October 16, 2023

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: J. Dodsworth, D. Smith, K. Dajani, C. Todd, T. Tolar-Peterson, N. Dabbs, M. Jetter, J. Yu, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, S. Pantula, C. Hood, S. McGill

Presentation on Assessment – Amber Olney

Ms. Olney gave an overview of the assessment process. She provided the chairs with a handout of the department representatives and asked that they review it and update it. She offered her assistance to any department needing it. There was discussion regarding GradeScope, a software tool used by some departments for assessment which the university has decided not to renew.

Overview of Geology Department – Claire Todd

Overview of School of Computer Science & Engineering – Khalil Dajani

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Maynard reported that the next transfer SOAR will be held on Friday, October 27th.
* Dr. Escalante reported that PATHS will be funding student research this year, but it will be a little different.
* Dr. Hood asked if there were any concerns with curriculum and modality. She reported that modality changes can take place in the spring.
* Dr. Hood reported there will be a total eclipse in April 2024 and told chairs if they were interested in the event to let her know.
* Dean Pantula spoke with the chairs about the budget issues that we will be facing this coming school year.
  + - Part-time faculty funding has been cut by 24%. We will receive 64% of $5 million to cover everything.
    - We were also asked to reduce our O&E and have not received the O&E budget for this year yet.
    - We are trying to meet our FTEs target for spring.
    - We want to show that we have reduced our WTUs in order to address our budget reductions.
    - We will end up in the red, but we need to do everything we can while meeting our FTES targets and help students register for classes.
    - Concerning professional development funds, our goal is to still provide $1,000 for faculty. This will be done in conjunction with the departments as we did last year. Department chairs will have flexibility in supporting their faculty based on the need and available resources.
    - Monies have been set aside for the repairs necessary for the greenhouse and a roof for the animal house.
* Dean Pantula reported that CNS has quite a few events planned for our Homecoming Celebration.
* Dean Pantula reported that 5E Advanced Materials Company is coming tomorrow for a site visit.