Natural Sciences Chairs’ Council

November 6, 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, G. Vigil

Overview of Kinesiology Department – Nicole Dabbs

Overview of Health Science Department – Terezie Tolar-Peterson

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Jetter reported that the Math Department hosted the CSU Math Council meeting on October 23rd.
* Dr. Smith reported that the Chemistry Department is currently short-staffed. Terri Cortez retired, and Irene Carrasco is currently dealing with some health issues. He thanked Ms. Valencia for the support she has provided the department.
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics and Astronomy Department was well represented at the recent Homecoming Event. The tour of the observatory and its equipment was very well attended.
* Dr. Todd reported that she and other faculty traveled to community college and high school campuses to recruit students and advertise the field of geology.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department’s annual surveys for BRN were submitted last week.
* Dr. Yu reported the Nursing Department had an IEHP visit last week. They are seeking more sites, especially pediatrics.
* Dr. Yu reported that the nursing department has suffered major staffing issues. They have had in the past 4 staff people in their department office, and they are now down to one and she will be leaving on December 1st.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson announced the Health Science Department will hold an open house on Thursday, November 9th.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson announced the HSA program is bringing candidates to campus for interviews.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the department has started to review the applications for the nutrition position.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that she was very pleased with the department’s attendance at Homecoming and at the Puente event this past weekend.
* Dr. Dabbs reported the Kinesiology Department did zoom interviews with candidates and are now having 3 candidates come to campus for interviews.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that the Kinesiology faculty will be doing a career pathway presentation for Norco/Corona School district in late November.
* Dr. Dodsworth reported that several biology faculty and students recently attended the National SACNAS Conference in Portland.
* Dr. Dodsworth reported the Biology Department will also be operating with less office staff support as Dulce is leaving for a position with Faculty Affairs.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she is reviewing faculty class accounts and most of them have a zero balance.
* Ms. Valencia reminded the chairs that she needs a list from the department of faculty whose entitlements will not be met.
* Ms. Valencia reported that she has been busy working on getting the staff vacancies filled as quickly as possible.
* Dr. Vigil introduced himself to the chairs and gave a brief overview of his previous employment positions. He then gave an overview of projects he is working on and asked for any suggestions the chairs might have to improve CNS social media.
* Dr. Vigil announced that the college needs to appoint a mace bearer for December graduation. He requested that chairs email him with any suggestions of someone to serve in that capacity. The decision needs to be made this week.
* Dr. Vigil announced that he will hold a workshop for students on November 8th on how to write a CV.

Announcements by Administrators

* Dr. Maynard reported that the Puente event this past weekend was well attended – over 1,200 students. He thanked all of the chairs for their participation.
* Dr. Maynard reported that transfer SOAR applications will be accepted until November 13th.
* Dr. Maynard requested that the departments work with Dr. Vigil to update the department fact sheets.
* Dr. Escalante reported that minors in statistics, data science, and physics have recently been denied by the registrar’s office due to too much course overlap between their major and their minor. The bulletin policy is gray on this area. He has spoken with Kelly Campbell and Alison Wiles and they are working on creating a clearer policy. The information is currently with the faculty senate. He has asked for information on what to do with students who are graduating in December that were denied the minor.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Science Success Center is actively recruiting incoming STEM transfer students from the October/November/December SOAR sessions. He asked the chairs to help spread the word that they are looking for STEM transfer students to join SSC.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Puente event was successful. He worked the table for the Science Success Center and had about 53 students stop by the booth, ask questions and get swag.
* Dr. Hood reported that enrollment for the spring semester has started and she asked the chairs to check their classes as some have already filled and have wait lists.
* Dr. Hood reported that winter registration will begin on November 13th.
* Dr. Hood reported that she is working on the Academic Master Plan and will be reaching out to the chairs for information.
* Dean Pantula announced that the Provost has approved an external search for the physics and astronomy department and indicated that chemistry and kinesiology searches are taken off the bubble list and good to continue with the search.
* Dean Pantula requested that the chairs encourage their faculty to attend commencement. Students and their families want to see their professors at the event.
* Dean Pantula reported that the search for the Associate Dean position should post this month.