Natural Sciences Chairs’ Council

May 20, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the May 6th meeting approved.

Discussion

* Residential development in area of Land Lab. Dr. Todd wanted to discuss with other chairs the plan to build homes in the area north of the campus. The geology department is very concerned about this as a lot of their classes involve trips to this area to study the San Andreas fault that runs through that area. Dr. Dodsworth reported that the biology department has also had discussions about this and the negative impact it would have on their classes. It was reported that the developer has reached out to individual faculty to get them to support this plan. Chairs were told if they are contacted by the developer, they should contact Jenny Sorenson. Dr. Todd was adamant about the negative impact this will have on the geology program. Please forward any department concerns to Dr. Hood, who will combine and share them with Jenny.
* Dr. McGill had sent a copy of the CNS Reassigned Time policy with suggested changes to the chairs and asked if anyone had any comments or questions. Edits to the sections G, H and I of the CNS Reassigned Time and Supervision policy were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Torner reported that he has been busy working on enrollment and getting information to students who have yet to register.
* Dr. Torner thanked the chairs and CNS staff for the support he has received during his time as chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department.
* Dr. Dajani reported that the School of Computer Science and Engineering had two faculty members, Jennifer Jin and Bilal Khan, present a paper on AI in Hawaii this past month.
* Dr. Dajani reported that he has been busy accommodating students for registration.
* Dr. Todd reported that she has spoken with the Geology Department about possible changes for the department.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Geology Department had received notice of Britt Leatham’s retirement at the end of this month.
* Dr. Dodsworth of the Biology Department reported that he and Dr. Bournias had met with Drs. Paul Lyons and Hani Atamna at the California University of Science and Medicine regarding a possible Clinical Lab Science program where CSUSB would offer prerequisites and a pipeline of students for a CLS program to be developed at CUSM.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Nursing Department held their pinning ceremony last Friday.
* Dr. Yu reported that the faculty candidates’ campus visits have been completed and they have submitted their recommendations for hiring.
* Dr. Yu reported the search for a staff person at PDC has been completed and recommendations have been submitted.
* Dr. Dabbs reported that the Kinesiology Department’s held their end of the year faculty/staff event last Thursday at the 66er’s game.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported the Health Science and Human Ecology department is busy working on their accreditation projects.

Announcements by Administrators

* Ms. Valencia reported that she will be working on the summer contracts today after the go/no go decisions are made.
* Ms. Valencia requested chairs look at the open travel expenses and work with faculty to get them resolved.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he has been working on the End-of-Year report for Strategic Planning which is due June 3rd. He requested that chairs get their input to him before May 29th.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the SSC has hired a new counselor who will begin June 3rd.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the SSC will be working on recruitment and requested that chairs speak with their students about joining SSC.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the study marathon that the SSC held was very successful.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the CNS DEI committee created a list of potential speakers to invite to campus.
* Dean Pantula reported that this would be the last meeting attended by Dr. McGill. She will be taking a DIP for the fall semester. He thanked her for her service over the past several years.
* Dr. Hood reported that the go/no good decision will be made today. The minimum enrollment is 13 students. If enrollment is below 20 be sure and make sure that the faculty member is willing to teach for less money.
* Dr. Hood reminded the chairs that the deadline for submitting for funding of the Strategic Plan is June 10th. Please be sure and submit your ideas before then.
* Dean Pantula reported that President Morales wants to emphasize study abroad opportunities. CEGE will help faculty with planning and developing them. Concerning MOUs with parties outside of the United States encouraged faculty taking sabbatical leaves at our international partner institutions.
* Dean Pantula mentioned that enrollment is still below normal and encouraged faculty to reach out to students and get them enrolled. Dr. Todd reported that she has reached out to continuing students and the majority of them replied that they have a financial hold, and they can’t enroll until they pay.
* Dean Pantula announced that promotion letters should go out today.