Natural Sciences Chairs’ Council

June 3, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

In Attendance: J. Dodsworth, D. Smith, K. Dajani, C. Todd, T. Tolar-Peterson, M. Jetter, J. Yu, P. Pattayakorn, C. Hood, G. Vigil, G. Escalante, S. Pantula, T. Valencia, D. Rinebolt

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Smith announced that the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry has filled its ASC I position, and the new person will begin working June 17th.
* Dr. Jetter reported that the Department of Mathematics has been busy working with students to make sure that they are able to enroll in classes.
* Dr. Jetter reported that she has also been busy adjusting summer schedule and finding faculty who are willing to teach at a reduced salary based on low enrollments.
* Dr. Jetter announced that Dr. Joe Chavez had completed his FERP and is now retired.
* Dr. Dajani reported the School of Computer Science and Engineering has good enrollment numbers for its summer classes.
* Dr. Dajani reported that he attended the RAISE Grant event that was held this past Saturday, June 1st.
* Dr. Dajani reported that Owen Murphy has finished his FERP and is now retired.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Department of Geology started their student research program today.
* Dr. Todd reported that Dr. Britt Leatham announced his retirement as of May 31st.
* Dr. Dodsworth reported that the Biology Department held their RAISE Grant event this past Saturday.
* Dr. Yu reported that the Department of Nursing’s candidate for the full-time lecturer position has accepted their offer and will begin teaching in the fall semester.
* Dr. Yu reported that the department has submitted their recommendation for the full-time faculty position to the provost and is awaiting his approval.
* Dr. Yu announced that Pinthusorn Pattayakorn will be the interim department chair and will begin her new position in August.
* Dr. Yu reported that the staff position for the Palm Desert Campus has been filled.
* Dr. Yu reported that the department will be hosting students from the University of Taiwan for a summer class beginning in July. There will be 16 students attending a 4-week program.
* Dr. Tolar-Peterson reported that the Department of Health Science and Human Ecology has been busy cleaning labs and preparing for fall semester.
* Dr. Todd reported that the Department of Geological Sciences has settled the ongoing dispute with AirGas over unpaid invoices. AirGas has agreed to the information provided by the department and adjusted their balance due to show the account up to date.
* Dr. Hood reported for the Department of Physics and Astronomy that Dr. Callori also helped at the RAISE event last week.

Announcements by Administration

* Ms. Valencia reported that faculty payments for March should be issued by June 6th. Payments for April should be issued next week. Payments for May she will be working on next week.
* Dr. Vigil requested that chairs send him any items needed to make sure the department web site is up to date.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Summer Research Program started today. He reported that there was a good turnout.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the SOARs begin tomorrow. There are 51 STEM students who will attend.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Science Success Center has a new counselor who began today. They will begin another search next week for a entry level STEM counselor.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he has been working with Dr. Vigil on a pre-nursing web site. It is now up and running.
* Dr. Escalante encouraged the chairs to attend the welcoming ceremonies for new first time freshmen that will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Union.
* Dr. Hood reported on current student enrollment for the fall semester. A large percentage of the students who have not enrolled yet are in good standing to enroll.
* Dr. Hood reported that CLSS for spring semester will open on August 29th.
* Dean Pantula reported that Isatou Faal, the director of Academic Labor Relations, has left CSUSB. The position will no longer be part of Faculty Affairs and Development and will now be under Human Resources. Kevin Grisham has returned to teaching faculty and the new Associate Vice President should start soon.
* Dean Pantula reported that he has spoken with the provost about searches for next year and the budget. No decision has been made yet.
* Dean Pantula reported that he is glad to see the number of promotions the college has received this year.
* Dean Pantula reported that the college has also seen a lot of reassigned time. We do need to monitor reassigned time as some faculty have received too much reassigned time and the cabinet has commented on that.
* Dean Pantula inquired if the chairs had any preference on a merit vs. allocation basis for awarding proposals for release time within the college for various departments.
* Dean Pantula reported that some promotion raises have gone out. A 9% increase is the standard. He and the provost have received multiple requests from faculty for more than 9%.