Natural Sciences Chairs’ Meeting

September 16, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

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

Philanthropy and Advancement – Raymond Watts, Michelle Skiljan, Tomi Daniels and Audrie Gastelum

Mr. Watts spoke about the fact that even though the College of Natural Sciences does not have a director of philanthropy at the present time, he and his team are working with the college. He introduced the team and explained a little of what each of them did. He also spoke with chairs about ways to grow giving to the college. He also inquired if the chairs had things they would like to do but that need funding. He encouraged chairs to reach out to them with any ideas or needs they might have.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the August 19th meeting were approved.

Informational Items

1. Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Dabbs reminded the chairs of the University Chairs Meeting to be held this Wednesday, September 18th at 1 p.m. She encouraged the chairs to attend this meeting as a resolution is being proposed to the senate regarding a vote of no confidence of department chairs.

1. Announcements by Administration

* Dr. Vigil informed the chairs that he has joined the DEI Board and is working on monthly events.
* Dr. Vigil requested that the departments that have not submitted their updated FACT sheets to please do so as soon as possible.
* Dr. Vigil reminded the chairs that department highlights need to be submitted by the 1st of the month.
* Dr. Escalante reported on the WACAC (Western Association for College Admission Counseling) College Fair that will be held here on campus October 3rd. He would like to have volunteers from the departments to meet with students.
* Dr. Escalante informed the chairs of a Community Stakeholders Meeting that is being planned for October 25th.
* Dr. Escalante informed the chairs of the Community College Discovery Science Fair that will be held November 8th. He asked for volunteers to work at that event.
* Dr. Escalante reported that the Science Success Center has hired 4 new counselors. This year they have a record number of new (351) students in the cohort.
* Dr. Escalante reported on the formation of the CNS DEI Committee. Dr. April Karlinsky (CNS elections officer) will hold an election for 5 committee members – 2 Allied Health faculty and 3 STEM faculty. Dr. Escalante will send out an email to faculty asking for nominations.
* Ms. Valencia indicated that there has been a delay in processing the promotional increases, IRPs and SSI. They may not appear until October.

College Curriculum Committee – Dr. Amanda Rymal

Dr. Rymal spoke with the chairs regarding the procedures and timelines for making changes to the curriculum. She suggested that each department have their own curriculum committee. This will facilitate the processing of changes in a much quicker fashion. She said for departments to plan for an 18-month process in making changes to curriculum.

Announcement by Administration (continued)

* Dean Pantula asked for any topics the chairs would like to address at the retreat next Friday, September 27th.
* Dean Pantula spoke to the chairs about the budget deficit and changes that will need to be implemented. He said there will be an Open Forum soon to provide more information. He reported that Academic Affairs has close to an $8 million deficit and 92% of that is salaries. As a result, we can expect changes, such as:
  + reduce travel
  + reduce reassigned time
  + reduce operating costs
  + schedule classes efficiently
  + no course matches on grants in the future
* Dr. Dodsworth reported that a biology student doing research over the weekend was asked to leave the building by university police. When key requests are made for after-hour access it will be necessary to submit information to the police dispatch and officer Albert Anolin. The information that needs to be submitted to the police department is:
  + Student name
  + ID #: xxxxxxxxx
  + DOB: xx/xx/xxxx
  + Rooms they will be in for research:
  + Supervisor name and phone number:
  + Will expire: