

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2023
TSC 5004

Present: Lisa Hammersley, Tom Krabacher, Ron Coleman, Craig Timmons, Julie Griffin, Richard Aguirre, Alex Pettitt, Zainab Ghani, Justin Miller-Schulze, Michael Wright, Erica Orcutt, Matthew Schmidlein.

Meeting called to order at 9:15am.

1. Approval of the agenda **Msc**
2. Approval of the minutes from September 12, 2023 **Msc**
3. Announcements:

Lisa Hammersley

- The NSM Research Symposium is on Oct. 23 at 5-7pm in the Union Ballroom. Yesterday was the deadline to submit posters for printing but there was an issue with the system not allowing students to submit their posters so the deadline has been extended by two days. Anyone who already has a poster printed can present but they still must sign up so they are in the brochure.
- Chemistry hosted the first college DEI event on Sept. 22 with an Ice Cream Social. The October DEI event will be hosted by the Biology Department on Oct. 31 at 11:30am-1:30pm called Boo-ology and there will be a costume contest, refreshments and other activities. The November event will be hosted by the Geography Department which will host a trivia night scheduled during Geography Awareness week Nov. 13-17. More details to follow.

Ron Coleman

- Due to compliance issues, a new video streaming license was purchased for the Canvas videos so there may be changes to how the feature looks in Canvas.
- Reminder that there are programs available to provide laptops and broadband connections to students in need. Students should go to the Help Desk to find out more.
- At the COAST meeting on Friday, it was announced that there is a program that will help provide gear (hiking boots, tents, etc.) for students taking field courses. Contact Ron Coleman for more info.

Alex Pettitt

- The Physics and Astronomy Department will be hosting an eclipse viewing event on Saturday Oct. 14 at 8am-11am outside the Planetarium.

4. Selection of Academic Council Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member
 - Julie nominated to serve as vice chair and Alex nominated to serve as executive committee member. **Msc**
5. Review of Bylaws
 - Scholarship and Awards committee: the Bylaws state the Dean's office will solicit nominations for at least one faculty representative from each department then a college-wide election will be held. What has been happening is the departments appoint a faculty member to serve so it was proposed to remove the college-wide election and

just leave it to the departments to decide who will be the rep. This committee does have an evaluative element for the faculty awards which was the reasoning behind having the college-wide election. Since the committee is made up of 6 reps who decide the award recipients, any one rep cannot decide on the winner so an election among the college on the rep appointed by the department may not be necessary.

- Safety Committee: The Bylaws state that the Dean's Office will solicit nominations for faculty reps from the departments and Academic Council will select from the list. It is proposed to remove the Academic Council selection and just have the departments appoint the faculty rep since there is only one faculty rep per department. The call for nominations for the staff reps go out as a general call to all staff so the Academic Council will continue to select the reps from the staff nominations. The Safety committee has also asked that a standing meeting time of the 2nd Friday of the month at 2pm be added to the Bylaws.
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee: The Bylaws state that a call for nominations will go out to the college for the faculty in staff reps and Academic Council will select from the nominations. It is proposed to add that the nominees provide a brief statement of interest, not to exceed 250 words, along with their nomination so Academic Council can review the statements when making their selections. This committee already has a standing meeting time of the 1st & 3rd Friday of the month at 10am but they couldn't meet at that time this semester so they unofficially chose another time. These meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend so it is important that people who plan to serve on the committee make sure they are available at the time stated in the Bylaws.
- Curriculum Resource Committee: This committee has a standing meeting time of the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month but it is not listed in the Bylaws. It is proposed that the standing meeting time be added to the Bylaws to align with the proposed changes to the other subcommittees.

The Bylaws with the track changes will be posted to the Teams page for Academic Council reps to review and add any comments or feedback. Reps will also share with their departments for feedback.

At the next Academic Council meeting the changes will be reviewed and voted on.

10:30am adjourn