

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Lisa Hammersley, Tom Krabacher, Ron Coleman, Tom Savage, Craig Timmons, Yinfa Ma, Julie Griffin, Richard Aguirre, Joya Mukerji, Shannon Datwyler.

Meeting called to order at 9:00am.

1. Approval of the agenda Msc
2. Approval of the minutes from February 21, 2023 **Msc**
3. Announcements:

Lisa Hammersley

- No Dean's Office hour this week.
- Thursday March 9 in Union, Pacific Suite, at 3-5pm is the Senate Outstanding Faculty Awards ceremony.

Tom Krabacher

- The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) College Day was held last Friday and was well attended. These types of events are good for attracting students to majors in NSM.

Julie Griffin

- Due to changes in the Geology Department, Julie needs to revise her current role as an at-large rep to a department rep.
 - Julie's at-large rep term is up at the end of this semester so an election will be held for a replacement.

Shannon Datwyler

- A call just went out for a Faculty Advising Fellow position to start in fall 2023. This is a two-year term with 3 WTU of release per semester to work 8-hours per week in the NSM Advising Center. The outgoing rep was from Chemistry so the new rep will likely be from a different department. Faculty interested in applying must provide verification of release from the Chair.

Yinfa Ma

- The SURE application deadline is next Monday.
- The D3 event with ECS announcement has gone out. It is on April 26. The link to upload posters is up on the website.

Ron Coleman

- Emails have been sent out about some upcoming network upgrades to fix some glitches in the system. Any issues that may occur on people's computers due to the upgrade should be fixed by restarting their computer.
 - There was a regional network outage that effected the entire campus last Sunday.
- Yesterday was the student research competition. There were 50 talks, 32 of which were from NSM.

- Create, Make, Share is an event coming up in mid-April where students, faculty and staff can display any item they've created. The event is scheduled to be held in the Union but they are trying to get it moved to the newly opened Maker Space.
4. Report from the Awards and Scholarship Committee on the Outstanding Faculty Awards Selection
- The Awards subcommittee has concerns about the requirements for the Outstanding Faculty Awards being vague, creating challenges in selecting the recipients. The last time this issue was addressed the feedback from the Academic Council was that the rubric shouldn't be too detailed in order to allow for a variety of submission packet materials and suggested looking into what other colleges do. A subcommittee was formed but the committee charge has not rewritten nor have the requirements been clarified.
 - Lisa – This is a campus-wide program that has parameters set by Faculty Senate. The colleges can add their own criteria but what we send out to faculty for these awards is language from Faculty Senate.
 - Julie will consult with the awards committee on the specific areas in the policy where more clarity is needed and report back to Academic Council at a future meeting.
5. Feedback from departments on the Development of a Faculty Mentorship Program
- Tom S., Alex and Julie are in the working group tasked with developing the program and they've met once and decided they will look at other departments, colleges and university's programs as a starting point to come up with framework that could work for NSM.
 - Craig - feedback from the Math Department included an article from Columbia University on faculty mentorship that the working group may find useful; making sure it is not a burden on the mentors; support of cross department mentorship; an easy way to dissolve in the case of a mismatch; a formal group luncheon or coffee; a checklist for structure; and a survey for effectiveness feedback.
 - Lisa – OFA is piloting a cross-disciplinary mentorship program but it is only going to include a small group of incoming faculty. Lisa has also consulted with the NSM Chairs who were on board with the development of the mentorship program. Lisa suggested the working group meet with the Chairs at an upcoming Chairs meeting to discuss.
 - Tom K. – The Geography probationary faculty liked the idea of inter-disciplinary mentorship since there is already support within the department; a broader perspective on university culture would be beneficial.
 - Joya – a survey went out to the Biology faculty asking what are the positives and challenges of the job and how mentoring could accentuate the positives and help with the challenges. Student success in research and in the classroom, knowledge sharing of workflows for administrative tasks, service focus and research focus tracks, balance and time management, best practices for advising, and celebration from the Dean on positive work the faculty are doing were included in the feedback.
 - Julie – The Geology Department would like support for the meetings as well as clarity on if this is only for new faculty or current junior faculty as well.
 - Craig suggested making two models; one for new faculty and one for junior faculty, implementing the new faculty mentorship program in the fall and phase in the junior faculty program later. Reps should start asking around to see who may be interested in mentoring new faculty in the fall.
 - The working group will present at the next meeting in early-April.

10:00am adjourn