

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 26, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Tom Krabacher, Ron Coleman, Tom Savage, Katie Ardill, Julie Griffin, Craig Timmons, Richard Aguirre, Lisa Hammersley, Shannon Datwyler, Yinfa Ma, Michael Wright, Kacey Sozzi, Matt Block.

Meeting called to order at 9:15am.

1. Motion to approve the agenda. **Msc**
 - Tom S. added an agenda discussion item on approaches for addressing post-pandemic elevated DFW rates.
2. Motion to approve the minutes as amended from Apr. 12, 2022 **Msc**
3. Announcements:

Lisa Hammersley

- Budget call work continues as we approach the end off the 21-22 AY. College budget presentations will take place in early June.
- New faculty hiring has commenced for faculty starting in fall 2023. The college has 6 new hires; 2 in biology, 2 in math, 1 in geography and 1 in chemistry.
- The Provost announced 2 new invigorating research programs:
 - Progress to promotion which is for Assistant and Associate Professors
 - Novel projects for professors
- A call just went out from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies for proposals to redesign courses or sequences of courses with high DFW rates.
- The student, faculty, staff awards event last Friday was a success.

Yinfa Ma

- The SURE program will have 20 students over summer. There will be a reception for the students and faculty mentors as well as 2 workshops over summer.
- Commencement is coming up May 20 at 1-4pm at the G1 Center. More Marshals are needed. Email Rose if interested in Marshaling.

Ron Coleman

- Updates on campus computers roll out monthly. Everyone should check their software center and install updates. If they are not installed manually they will be automatically installed and could cause disruptions because the auto-installs cannot be paused or stopped.
- The campus-wide poster forum is Oct. 27.

Action items

4. The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion charge working group formed at the last meeting brought changes to the committee charge document. The purpose of the changes was to make the committee charge not too specific allowing for more flexibility and to align with the university efforts on diversity, equity and inclusion. The broad nature of the committee is in line with

the other committee charges in the college, especially during the formation phase during which committee tasks can be identified and evolve over time. The role of this committee is to be informative in regards to DEI matters within the college and the specific tasks they start on may take a few meetings to get sorted out. If the committee is added to the constitution it will be required to present an annual report of activities to the Academic Council. The Chair of the Secondary committee contacts faculty prior to writing their letters to ask what their preferred pronouns are is an example of something the DEI committee could manage. Motion to accept the charge document msc.

The addition of the committee to the constitution will require a vote among the faculty of the college. Lisa will send out the constitution with the suggested edits to the Academic Council for a vote via email. Once approved by Academic Council it will go out to the college for election.

5. Tom S. has noticed that the range between the top and the bottom grades for students in his classes has increased significantly compared to pre-pandemic and asked members of Academic Council if they've seen it in their classes. With the move to virtual over the past 2 years students have missed out on lab and groupwork experience. Ron C. has noticed that with virtual classes students are able to take heavier course loads and now that they are returning back to in-person they are unable to overlap coursework time which takes some adjustment. Kacey S. has heard from peers that they feel faculty have become disengaged over the pandemic and that students have missed out on some important lab skills required for the next level courses. The overall goal is to have students meet learning objectives and faculty may need to come up with more creative ways to gauge outcomes such as mastery based assessment.

10:15am adjourn