

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom.

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

Meeting called to order at 9:15am.

1. Approval of the agenda. as amended. **Msc**
2. Approval of the minutes from May 11, 2021, as amended. **Msc**
3. Introductions
4. Announcements:

Lisa Hammersley

- We are in week 3 and all in-person classes are going well. Students may need gentle reminders when in the buildings without their masks on. Yesterday was the deadline for student attestation of vaccinations or exemptions; so far approximately 26K of 31K have attested. The Registrar's Office is now working on determining which of the students who have not yet attested are taking in-person classes and will be reaching out to them. Faculty/staff vaccination in the college is over 98%.
- Budget from Provost coming later this week. One-time funds were granted from the President to update two biology activity spaces.
- Spring planning conversations have begun. Departments should be thinking about flexible modalities to improve learning outcomes going forward.

Yinfa Ma

- Fall research symposium planning is ongoing. The timing will be determined based on how many students will be presenting. Information will be posted to the college website.
- The College Pitch Competition details are being finalized with support from the Carlsen Center. Entry deadline is Oct. 8. The Carlsen Center will work with students to help prepare them for the competition which takes place Nov. 2. Departments are asked to help encourage students to participate.
- The What's the Next Step speaker series is being planned in collaboration with The Career Center. Information will go out to students and departments with details about the talks which will take place on Oct. 12, 20, 26 & Nov. 3.

Shannon Datwyler

- Enrollment is down from last fall but up from fall 2019.
- Shannon has been working with the NSM Advising Center on developing a new faculty advising workshop. The first session is Friday. There are 14 participants. The focus is on basics of advising and where to find information in CMS, the catalog and other resources on campus. There was interest expressed from some more experienced advisors so a

survey will be going out soon asking faculty if there is interest in holding more advanced workshops in the spring and what topics should be covered. The Advising Center met with all transfer students and the advisors noted it wasn't always necessary for each student so this year transfer student advising will be optional.

- There is an opportunity to apply for funding for student success initiatives for course redesign in gateway courses or areas where there are large opportunity gaps. If faculty are interested in addressing in their classes, talk to Shannon. These funds aren't limited to a particular course so a larger one-time funding requests can be put in to look at curriculum redesign as well.

Ron Coleman

- Ron is the Director of the Student Research Center. On Nov. 5 is the campus-wide poster forum which will be in-person. All NSM students presenting at the college event are encouraged to participate in the campus event. A poster will be required. The Student Research Center offers poster making and grant writing workshops. Students are messaged about these events but they are much more likely to participate if a faculty member talks to them so faculty are encouraged to talk to their students about participating.

5. Academic Council Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member Selection

- The bylaws specify that each year the Academic Council will elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Executive committee member. Chair and Vice Chair have 2-term limits so Matt S. is no longer eligible to be Chair and Matt B. is no longer eligible to serve as Vice Chair.
 - Nominations for Chair: Tom Krabacher **msc**
 - Nominations for Vice Chair: Julie Griffin **msc**
 - Nominations for Executive Committee Member: Michael Wright **msc**

6. Safety Committee Clerical Staff Rep Selection

- We did not receive any nominations. The term "clerical" isn't appropriate so the committee will look into changing that language to be clearer about who this applies to (administrative, non-technical, SSP, etc.).
- The call for nominations will be resent with updated language as to why it is important to have staff representation from staff who work outside of the lab.
- Matt S. made a motion to update the language in the committee charge to make clear who falls into the two staff categories **msc**
- Lisa and Michelle will bring the updated language to the next meeting for review

7. Review of Recommended Items from Last Year's Council

- Equity and Inclusion working group formation to a standing college committee
 - Working group will craft charge to bring to Academic Council by end of semester to try and get standing committee in place for next academic year
 - Bylaws can be amended to include charge instead of creating separate charge
 - Amend constitution to include new standing committee which requires a vote of college faculty
- Continued revisions for Secondary (Personnel) Committee
 - Began with language revisions related to timing of elections which resulted in clarification that faculty are not eligible to be elected to serve until they have officially received the appointment required for eligibility
 - A workgroup was formed (Mat S., Michael W., Kim E.) to bring recommendations for revisions to the NSM RTP committee policy to reduce the workload of those serving. They reviewed the structures of other committees on

campus and consulted with Adam Rechs, UARTP Chair, who gave comments on the proposed changes. The proposed changes were in the process of being reviewed and approved at the end of last year's Academic Council working group.

- a. Reconstitution of a new working group is proposed **msc**
 1. Matt S., Michael W. and Julie G. will serve **msc**
- b. Academic Council will review the changes that have been approved so far and continue to work through them. Reps can bring to departments for additional feedback
- c. The changes will be voted on by the college. Once adopted by the college it goes to UARTP for review which may require another election depending on their feedback. Once approved by UARTP it goes to the President for final approval. Given the long approval process the working group and Council will try to get the changes approved in time to be in place for fall 2022.

10:20am adjourn