COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: **Tom Krabacher, Ron Coleman, Tom Savage, Katie Ardill, Matt Schmidtlein, Julie Griffin, Craig Timmons, Richard Aguirre, Chris Taylor, 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**

2. Motion to approve the minutes as amended from Dec. 7, 2021 **Msc**

3. Announcements:

Lisa Hammersley

- With more students returning to campus soon, the Provost Office has decided to have a webinar tomorrow at 4-5pm with Dan Carsel (Director of Health Services, SHCS), Gary Rosenblum (AVP Risk Management), and VeRonica Dupree (Director Academic Labor Relations) for a panel presentation on returning to campus protocols. This was sent out to faculty so they can get any questions regarding the return to campus answered.
  - Ron asked about a broken link on the webpage for reporting a positive test. Lisa said to email covidquestions@csus.edu or have students contact the Student Health Center.
- Convocation is Feb. 14 at 9am-3pm. Students are encouraged to attend so faculty are asked to not penalize them for missing class to attend. Departments should minimize any meetings scheduled during that time.
- Lisa is working on the budget cycle and is with departments on budget calls.
- The state mask mandate is planned to end next week but campus employees will still be required to wears masks indoors due to Cal-OSHA requirements. No official word on student masking but it is likely they will still be required to mask indoors after the state mandate is lifted. If anyone gets any push back from students just remind them of the campus requirements and try to keep things cordial.

Shannon Datwyler

- Enrollment is down overall, mostly in the lower division GE courses which is affecting some departments more than others. Reports from Institutional research are showing higher DFW rates among first- and second-year students. This is likely related to the pandemic. Faculty should help guide these students to the resources available on campus to help them be successful.

Yinfa Ma

- An announcement has gone out that applications are now open for the SURE program. Faculty are encouraged to announce in class as well. It is no longer a requirement to identify whether the project is going to be done remotely or in-person. The selection criteria are the same as previous years and will be clarified in the call for applications.

- o Tom Savaged asked if the selection process is competitive based on the best proposals which could put some students at a disadvantage. Yinfa said the application questions are comprehensive and the criteria includes how each student will benefit from the award. Lisa will bring this to the newly formed DEI committee to work on once they complete their charge.
- Friday at 3:30pm the college of NSM and the NSMJC are hosting an undergraduate research panel discussion on how students can get started in research. Faculty and research students will serve as panelists to explain how to get involved in research and answer any questions. This event is virtual.

Ron Coleman

- The deadline for the student research competition is coming up on Monday. Students can enter by going to the student research website and submitting an abstract (250-word max). The in-person event is scheduled for March 7 in the Union.

Matt Schmidtlein

- Matt asked about the process for revising the college constitution to reflect the new Secondary Committee policy. The election among the faculty in the college approved the changes and it has been sent to UARTP where it required a few small formatting revisions before they could begin reviewing it for the next level of approval. Since the changes won't be in effect until fall the college will recruit for the Secondary Committee in spring using the current process. The current policy will remain in place for the 22-23 review cycle unless there is enough time in fall to do a last-minute election to fill the subgroups.

Action items

4. NSM-fest Report – Shannon Datwyler

The first NSM-fest is planned to take place Tuesday-Friday of next week. It was originally planned for the 1st or 2nd week of the semester but it was pushed back due to the campus moving the first 2 weeks to virtual. The flyer will go out soon. The event will be a scavenger hunt for students who will get a punch card to take to the various NSM departments, program centers, the greenhouses, Planetarium, student club booths, etc. The goal of this event is to encourage engagement, assist in the adjustment to in-person interaction and learn about the different campus resources that are available. For some students who have been taking classes for the past two years, this is their first time being on campus. If they get at least 10 of the locations marked off they can turn in their ticket by the end of the week and be entered into a raffle for prizes like an iPod, Sac State swag or Hornet Bucks. There will be a kick off event on Tuesday and Wednesday outside of TSC where there will be coffee and donuts in the morning and pizza at lunch. The prize drawings will take place the following week.

5. Future Council Agenda Items
- Tom Savage: Structure and membership of the DEI committee
- Julie Griffin: Revisions to the Bylaws to reflect the changes to the composition of the Secondary Committee.
  College criteria for the Outstanding Faculty Awards

Lisa let everyone know that there are plans for changes to the student scholarship event that is usually held outside of Sequoia. It will be combined with the Outstanding Faculty Awards and Outstanding Staff Award into one reception to be held in the Union.

Ron asked about the status of the changeout of the Xerox copiers. Shannon is coordinating with the Chairs. The Xerox contract is expiring and will not be renewed so all machines will need to be changed out. The new contract has better pricing so departments will have the option to upgrade to color. No machines will be removed until there is a new machine ready. The network addresses are not changing.

10:15am adjourn