

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 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, 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 Feb. 8, 2022 **Msc**
3. Announcements:

**Shannon Datwyler**

- Dean Hammersley is going to be out for the next week or so. Send any urgent items to Shannon and/or Yinfa.
- Hiring requests were due to the Dean's Office yesterday.
- Equipment requests are due Friday.
- Many departments are currently conducting their program reviews.

**Yinfa Ma**

- An email went out from Rose Castillo yesterday about the Chancellor's Office call for proposals for novel ideas to improve graduation rates and close equity gaps.
- The D3 event will be held Thurs 4/7 at 5pm. This is an in-person social event where faculty from NSM and ECS can present research posters. Faculty can upload their poster to the ECS website and they will print it.
- UEI post award virtual office hours with Minnie Chabot are weekly on Tues 2-3pm and Fri 10-11am.
- There have been requests to push back the SURE application deadline since it falls on the same day as the student RCA symposium on Mon 3/7. The new SURE application deadline is Mon 3/14.

**Ron Coleman**

- Yesterday was the spring student research competition. Thank you to the faculty who served as judges. There were 68 presentations and 90 students total. Of the 68 presentations, 29 were from NSM.

**Richard Aguirre**

- SEE will be hosting a virtual screening of the documentary Black Men in White Coats which can be viewed Fri 3/11-Sun 3/13. On Mon 3/14 they are having a panel discussion on diversity in medicine led by alum Dr. Brandon Henry. Both events are free.

## Action items

4. Awards Committee Report - Julie Griffin was on the subcommittee that redrafted the charge for the awards committee and she also serves on the awards committee. This year the committee has requested that a rubric be created and shared with faculty when the call for nominations goes out for the Outstanding Faculty Awards. The instructions currently provided to faculty come from the Faculty Senate guidelines. The committee would also like a rubric for the student awards. Matt S. has concern that, if guidelines are too narrowly defined, a rubric could limit flexibility to recognize some unexpected aspects associated with each award category. Instead, clarification and detailed descriptions of the various awards could be posted to the college website with links to the Senate policies. Ron faces a related issue in Secondary RTP committee where some department policies try to encompass all possible scenarios resulting in an extremely lengthy policy document and makes reviewing more difficult. Academic Council should be mindful to avoid creating that same issue with the awards committee charge. Tom K. asked what other colleges use for their faculty award guidelines. Julie will look into what other colleges do. Tom S. agrees the guidelines shouldn't be too restrictive and pointed out that those serving on this committee are charged with making the difficult decision of who will win out of a diverse pool of faculty who are all deserving of the award. Chris suggested coming up with a more structured application process to make expectations clearer for the nominees. Matt S. suggested clarifying what the awards are recognizing to help the committee during deliberations. An awards policy sub-committee will be formed to clarify the purpose of each award and will check with other colleges on what their process is. Julie, Tom K., and Michael will serve on the subcommittee and report back to Academic Council.
5. NSM-fest Debrief – The event was a success with over 1000 game cards handed out at the kickoff event on Tuesday and Wednesday. Shannon, Lisa and Yinfa were outside talking to students and the Dean's Office staff took care of the food and set up. There were 158 game cards returned that had at least 10 stops signed off and 8 of those had all 25 stops signed off. Last week a survey was sent out to all students who turned in a game card and on the same day it was sent out there were 30 responses which were overwhelmingly positive saying that students had a great time visiting the different resources on campus. There were 152 prizes including 75 Hornet bucks vouchers, 29 water bottles and 2 iPads. Students who completed all spots on the card automatically won water bottles. Lisa and Shannon are looking at doing the event again in the fall. Feedback from faculty has been positive saying that they enjoyed getting a chance to meet with students and helping them learn about resources on campus. Going forward the event could happen every semester or just in fall or spring. Running it every semester could end up being too routine. It could be changed up with different tasks for students to complete in future semesters. We also want to be considerate of faculty and staff time during the first few weeks of the semester. Incoming new students benefit the most from events like these which are informative and help foster a sense of community. Richard mentioned the university Weeks of Wow event that takes place at the beginning of each fall and suggested possibly tying NSM-fest into that for fall and in spring having it more focused on departments in the college. The Dean's Office will send out another poll to try and determine reasons why some students didn't participate and what resources students would like to learn more about on campus. Thank you to everyone who participated.

10:15am adjourn