

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

The meeting was held via Zoom.

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

Meeting called to order at 9:00am.

1. Approval of the agenda Msc
2. Approval of the minutes from November 22, 2022 **Msc**
3. Announcements:

Yinfa Ma

- Today at 1pm is the undergraduate research discussion panel on why/how to join a research group. Last year this panel was very popular and many underrepresented minority students were in attendance.
- SURE applications are now open. Faculty should encourage students to apply. The deadline is March 6.
  - Richard asked if these types of announcements can also be sent out to staff since students go to department and program offices to ask for details. Yinfa will make sure to include staff in emails that have to do with opportunities for students.

Shannon Datwyler

- Enrollment is down in the college. When the call went out 5 years ago to add more sections the college FTES increased by a lot but now the numbers are trending down and the impact in lower division courses has shifted to upper division. Covid has had an effect on student preparedness in the lower division courses. There is growth in some of the other colleges so the campus as a whole is holding steady with enrollment. JC enrollment and transfers are down as well. The CSU is moving to a budget model where campuses with increasing enrollment will receive more funding so we need to be on the lookout for opportunities to raise enrollment in our courses.
- Yinfa is retiring in June so the college will be conducting a search for his replacement. Academic Council is responsible for selecting the search committee members; a call will go out soon. The position will be posted ASAP and remain open for applications for one month. The anticipated timeline is to conduct Zoom interviews in early-April and in-person interviews in late-April. The position description for the Associate Dean for Research and Engagement had a few slight modifications which included being the college Facilities liaison, more focus on faculty development and mentorship, and college safety coordination since all of these are tied to research.

Ron Coleman

- The deadline to sign up for the spring student research competition is next Monday; the event is on Mar. 6. Faculty should encourage their students to participate. Faculty interested in serving as jurors should email Ron.

- At the AITC meetings chatGPT and open AI products has been a discussion item. There is currently no campus policy on the use of AI but Faculty Senate plans to discuss. A tool has been developed to detect the use of AI but there is cost associated with it and it is unknown if the campus plans to purchase it. SSWD chimed in that AI has been useful for students whose disabilities restrict their ability to type and/or speak.

#### 4. Graduate Student Supervisory Compensation Policy

- The Provost will be sending out the updated policy to colleges so departments can ensure they are within the bounds of the campus policy. Bio and chemistry already have supervisory units policies in place that meet the requirements. Math and Geology will need to look at how to make it work for their departments. All Graduate Student Supervisory Compensation Policies will need to be approved by the President.

#### 5. Additional Items for Academic Council to Address in Spring

- Joya Mukerji – request to President for funding for certification and membership for faculty as health profession advisors which costs \$180 per year per faculty. Shannon suggested reaching out to Dean Hammersley since the cost is low enough to use college funds.
- Ron Coleman – look into communication strategies that can be used in the college to ensure information gets to the people who need it. Joya has found the Canvas announcement archives useful. Tom S. would like to use more of the TV screens that are around campus but there are cost issues associated with installing them in some buildings. The Biology Chair sends out a weekly batch digest to the department which has been useful in keeping everyone updated with what is happening in the department.
- Julie Griffin – challenges the Scholarship and Awards Committee has been experiencing with the Outstanding Faculty Awards selection. Julie will present at a future meeting so Academic Council can revise the committee charge.

10:03am adjourn