Science and Technology Division on Meeting

5.7.2021

1. Congratulations Prof. Sumathi Shankar who was recently awarded tenure!
2. Sarah Harmon: Zero Cost Textbook Program
   1. Summer and Fall textbook orders in on time
   2. Identify faculty who are using open source and zero cost textbooks
      1. WebSchedule allows students to filter classes
      2. Students asked if they look for courses with low or no cost courses
      3. Low Cost OER: free subject materials, but have a $40 or less homework
      4. Zero Cost Text: no cost to students
   3. Cañada doesn’t have any courses listed
   4. Please email Krystal with you ZCT and EOR courses so the attribute can be added to your course
   5. Equity Committee April/May newsletter: lots of new materials for science and tech course
      1. Might be more money for OER courses
         1. Z-Degrees: all core classes online and zero cost textbooks
      2. OERs for: chem, phys, bio
   6. Questions:
      1. Lab-kits are low cost, dept cant afford it, but is there equity funds to pay for lab kits? Brought up at last board meeting so they can look at a way to subsidize further or zero cost, Christ Smith brought it up to the board
         1. Ameer: we are looking into making the kits more affordable and reviewing funding options. Anything that happens at one college should happen at all and that is a district decisions
         2. VC of Instruction McVean is aware and we are trying to copy more or less what Skyline has. If faculty is taking about it at Senate that is a good way to be a squeaky wheel and get district attention further. Dean Carranza has been helpful to advocate. ESL is looking to go CTC, have your dean be your advocate.
         3. The fee is due to bookstore policy, not department based, Jai Kumar is on the subcommittee and is looking for ways to reduce cost as well
         4. Kudos to Jai as he’s been very helpful and instrumental in getting kits to students.
3. Susan Mahoney: Reassigned Time Application/Process
   1. Serve on Instruction Planning Council, advisory committee related to advising budgeting
      1. Program review process
      2. Reassigned process on IPC website
   2. Taskforce designed to look at RT process smoother due to faculty concerns
   3. Reassigned time: get reassigned from regular duties to do special projects
      1. Different kinds of reassigned time (details on website)
   4. Discretionary Reassigned Time
      1. Can look at past approved reassigned time
      2. S&T hasn’t put forth many applications
      3. Process hopefully runs smoother now
      4. IPC website>Reassigned Time (on left)>New Application for Reassigned Time (Google Doc form)
      5. Under Justification Core Responsibility field: enter as bulleted list, not narrative
      6. Dean does not need to support proposal
      7. The person filling position does not have to be the person supporting it.
      8. College wide process Timeline: (mid Nov) apply, (late nov) dean review, (early Dec) IPC review, VPI announces outcomes
4. UC Berkeley Extension Contract Renewal
   1. UCBE course on our campus: gen bio, gen chem, ochem, phys, microbio
   2. Options for voting: Do we renew contract as is? We like program as is (what we want), This is untenable and we no longer want it <https://tinyurl.com/UCBExt21>
      1. Roz-Lab Coordinator: long walk off short peer, no renewal or send to other campus, Skyline used all the general lottery funds so that’s why Cañada got no funds – the instructors they have used have not been satisfactory
      2. Casey: in evenings we contract out lab classes and a lot of instructors had been Cañada instructors. We could work with them during day and be ready for lab at night. With new instructors, they have to have an orientation and safety instructions before lab instruction, worked 12hrs between Cañada and Berkeley course. Had to do a lot of extra work and the new instructors weren’t the safest. The contract used to go directly to S&T, but district changed it so rental fees go to general fund.
      3. Angela: financial cost, we pay out of own biology fund for cost of supplies for UCBE courses, budget goes up when we support these course. If they insist Cañada course, a part-time 10 tech needs to be hired to support the contracted courses, we don’t have use of Casey’s time since it’s taken by UCBE
   3. Contract terms:
      1. about $14,400 for semester (depending on course),
      2. lab setup costs $2200 flat rate for materials and such,
      3. 1hr mandatory orientation for new instructors
   4. Lapuz: Dean Stringer brought up a few years ago and decided to not renew, surprised to see it be in place.
      1. Casey: Janet got rid of it for one semester, but “higher ups” said she didn’t have power to no renew
   5. We are contractually obligated to review contract (SEC 6 of contract)
   6. Susan: do we have a good cost of what the cost is in a breakdown?
      1. Ameer: from my back of the envelope calculations it’s not a tenable to renew
      2. Angela: only get $1500/semester from business office for last couple years
      3. Every year we have to remind business office to get additional hours
         1. We have to do a detailed accounting for business office of just want is used for UCBE – takes about a day or to just for the accounting
   7. Medina: when the money when away we decided not to renew with them, once we lost discretionary power, we can no longer do field trips now, had meeting with president, VPI and lab coordinators, when UCBE students break lab equipment we don’t get extra funds to pay for it for the Cañada students to use, if we don’t have those funds Cañada students lose out, UCBE does NOT train those individuals – it’s up to Cañada to do so, I teach at UCBE to babysit my equipment, what is the point if we get no benefit from all the work Roz and Casey do.
   8. Julian: used to work for UCBE, if renewed, increase price point or it’s money left on the table, there are Strong Workforce dollars, narrative needs to include way in which it supports workforce of your department.
   9. Krystal: I saw back of envelope calculations, I want to commend lab coordinators, especially Casey for all the hard work. This contract is extremely untenable and grossly unfair to our lab techs
   10. Medina: to what Julian said about funds for repairs – those funds should support our students.
   11. Lapuz: the benefit is to the district and not the college due to the transfer of funds. I was surprised someone made Janet Stringer renew. The division should know if we are forced to renew
       1. Ameer: I didn’t have any dogs in this fight, but after this conversation, this is a fact-finding mission for me, I see the consensus to not renew. I will convey the message to the higher-ups.
   12. Staples: Janet told me the whole story, the contract was beneficial at first, but once we no long have control of funds coming it she was forced to renew. If we can get extra money and personnel.
   13. Hirzel: board is reviewing corporate enterprise (SMAC and UCBE), we have a lot of UC students in the summer, we could offer those courses in the evening
       1. Ameer: we have new chancellors, VPs, deans and UCB point person.
   14. Ramki: if we renew, how would we rework it to benefit us?
       1. Ameer: if we do move forward, we can present them with new terms, you can add suggestions in Google form in bullet form
   15. Staples: the funds were removed from our department with no notice so something to keep an eye on
   16. Gibson: if the district wants host UCBE, we would really love it if another campus should host, Roz and Casey let me know if you agree, have the other campus host on a 4 or 6yr rotation. We have been doing it for the last 8yrs and we are tired.
   17. Casey: we would LOVE to have the other colleges host
   18. Ameer: the way it was presented to me, we have the chance to have some say in this, that’s why I wanted to bring it to the division to make this decision. As a scientist I don’t make decisions without data and now I have some history and the conversation we had today will be presented to the business office. The general consensus is this is not a fair contract, there is undue labor costs on our people and our equipment and we do not want to renew. I will be meeting with VP Mendoza and Chantal (who’s filling in for Mary as college business offer)
       1. I really do appreciate what all the lab coordinators do to support our students and our classes.
5. GP update: the pathways are still being guided (Attila not here)
   1. Gonzalo – Marcela and I are being trained on new student scheduling software, helping book counselors and get registered
6. STEM Update: working with Dean Thompson to Hamilton award – deadline extended until tonight.
   1. District wide After Party Transfer Mixer (5:30pm – 6:30pm) has been institutionalized so instead of only Cañada students, all are welcome After Party Transfer Mixerhttps://smccd.zoom.us/j/84391389732Meeting ID: 843 9138 9732May 14, 2021 - 5:30pm-6:30pm
   2. Please wear your alum gear and we’ll have breakout rooms for the different colleges
   3. Limited tutoring hours for the week of 17th so tutors can prepare for their finals
   4. you will see an email for recruitment for new EPIC tutors, send an email to me (Josue Alcaraz) with name and G number. For finals, we don’t help with finals unless professor specifically states can have tutor assistance.
   5. Milena:
   6. Kenna: Sumathi and I have been noticing with NFS scholars, students takes college at another campus, concern if what if students continue math sequence at other campus, have a meeting with retention spclst, what does retention look like from an academic standpoint.
   7. Ramki: anecdotal feedback from students – scheduling wise students saying they can’t take ENGR classes at our campus – we are losing students to other campuses due to schedule offerings – how have others resolved this?
      1. Ameer: something we are discussing in Cabinet. Students often look at us as a district vs a college since they can take course at any of the colleges
   8. Sumathi: talking about this the other day, one of things happening, few classes offered, being a small campus, if we have about 100 students, we don’t have the options of many sections with versatility of times/days. If I’m taking a class at skyline and make connections, if my classmates are staying at skyline it’s likely I’ll take the class there vs Cañada even if the same day and time is available, the district will see our low enrollment and be less likely to approve our additional faculty.
   9. Ramki: in ENGR we always have small class sizes, very local impact, but it effects which classes we can run, from admin standpoint it’s a very local problem for us and from the student prospective it’s not. Maybe we need to look at scheduling with all colleges, just as a suggestion. This is an issue for us as far as enrollment numbers.
      1. Ameer: you bring up some interesting points and this is a conversation at a cabinet level and district level. It will go throughout all the committees and the district will have to address this. The pandemic has been terrible and has forced us to be innovative. The infrastructure is in place for us to have those kinds of conversations
   10. Ramki: bringing a new program to campus involves a lot and thought it was strange that it has to go through curriculum committee first. After review at the college et al, the photonics program has been approved! We still have to do state certification, but that should be an issue
   11. Sumathi: ASCENT transfer student celebration
   12. Lapuz: (reference to Ramki) timing for courses, Janet used to have a scheduling workgroup so we can align all of our courses for our students.
   13. Ameer: MESA program was not approved, we had 10 days to appeal and we did, we haven’t heard back from state chancellor’s office. Of the 34 programs, 13 did not get renewed.