

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Council Meeting
November 15th, 2021, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm via WebEx

1. Call to Order, Bellizzi

2. Roll Call by attendee list from WebEx

Council Members Jim Anderson, Brian Ashburner, Bruce Bamber, John Bellizzi, Daryl Dwyer, Kathy Fisher, Sally Harmych, David Krantz, Malathi Krishnamurthy, Rong Liu, James Martin-Hayden, Anne Medling, Kristi Mock, John Plenefisch, Aniruddha Ray, Sonmez Sahutoglu, Eli Visbal, Wei Li, student representatives McKenzie Arquette, and Tanner Schultz, and guests Sylvia Goicoechea, Rupali Chandar, and Jeanine Refsnider.

3. Approval of Minutes from 10/19/21 distributed by email, no corrections. With no objections, approved by unanimous consent.

Motion: Sally Harmych made a motion to move item 7 up to item 4, for our guests from the NSM Diversity and Inclusion Committee. David Krantz seconded the motion, no objection (unanimous consent)

4. NSM Diversity and Inclusion Committee (D&I), Sylvia Goicoechea, presented what the committee has been working on. Pandemic makes committee business different. Sylvia listed NSM D&I committee members and their departments. D&I has a commitment to diversity and inclusion for the student body and the faculty. Feel free to contact Dr. Goicoechea with any questions. D&I has been active for two years with representation from the five NSM departments. The website for NSM on diversity and inclusion has info and resources like scholarships. The D&I committee hosts an information day for middle schoolers and another for high schoolers with research opportunities and scholarship opportunities. The committee's strategic plan through 2025 is published on their website. Dr. Goicoechea presented the committee's strategic plan Which included important goals for the college and the university. D&I is working with dean on Goals 4 and 5. How can the faculty help? Recognize that we need to work on representation of different populations. Be aware of diversity and inclusion, e.g., inclusion of international students and women, promotion of inclusiveness, and development of diversity and inclusion statements in syllabi. Training opportunities: Safe place training (3hrs), and undocumented student ally training.

Questions: When and where are diversity training opportunities available? Dr. Goicoechea will share those dates with us. You can search for diversity and inclusion training on the U. Toledo websites. Are there plans for other conferences? Yes, e.g., National Society of Black Physics. Dr. Goicoechea described a conference that she attended. She talked to John Plenefisch about staffing a booth. Is there a pool of knowledge of who is doing what? In her department they have submitted NIH proposals. We could extend this to the whole college. We could use existing proposals to get further funding. At UToledo at the college level freshman and sophomores, is there a way to find talented students from high school and help them get their footing? D&I has discussed those issues. Currently they are focused on

graduate students and faculty. That is the level at which collaboration across the college would be helpful. John Plenefisch: Equity Champions is at the university level within our college. The initial focus of the student experience program was to make our classrooms safe places and design projects to help them obtain and maintain a growth mindset. Getting more professors involved would be helpful. Equity Champions came out APLU to promote a more inclusive classrooms and develop a growth mindset on the institutional level, e.g., we could use eight to ten Equity Champions from our college. They are recruiting for the spring. The program is a community of practice promoting easy but effective methods of implementing changes in the classroom. This year NSM had the best year for retention. A big reason for that retention was work on gateway courses in Equity Champions. This seems to be the reason for the good retention numbers. All the materials developed for Equity Champions will be available through the Teaching Center. Equity Champions is currently limited to gateway courses but faculty at any level are encouraged to participate, even at the graduate level. Take advantage of training opportunities.

5. Old Business

- a. Discussion – College-level NSM Budget Committee: to provide transparency in the college budget. The committee will include faculty from all the departments. TMarc Seigar wants it in place by January. To be a member, you do not have to be on NSM Council. Faculty Senate plan: each college will have their own committee and there will be an equivalent committee at the university level. This has high priority from the Office of the President and Provost who are asking for input from the college, by December 14th meeting. They would report to NSM Council. This committee would be an advisory committee to the dean.

6. University reports, available on NSM site

- a. Faculty Senate report, Krantz: There are more incoming students from transfers so the provost is establishing a transfer team. Higher Learning Commission site visit: Overall comments were positive; no major problems. There are new mandates for COVID vaccinations. The deadline to be vaccinated was yesterday. Currently 70% had uploaded vaccination confirmation. Anyone who hasn't been vaccinated will need to be tested regularly. There is an exemption for religious beliefs but there is no longer an exemption for sincerely held philosophical beliefs. It is most likely that, while community spread is high, masks will be required. Enrolment: A record was set for students enrolling straight from high school. The Faculty Senate will review and discuss recommendations from BOT on proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate constitution. The BOT needs to review and approve it. BOT put forward changes in wording that gives them supremacy on decisions. Any review of administrators needs to be initiated by the BOT. Faculty input is valuable information for the dean and this requirement would be prohibitive to that flow of information. Take this back to your department and discuss this for information to the Faculty Senate. Circle back to Faculty Senate issue on BOT revisions to the Faculty Senate: 15 to 20 years conducted surveys with the colleges to evaluate the Dean, roughly every three years. The wording proposed by the BOT to the revisional of the Faculty Senate may not initiate a review of any administrator unless the BOT initiates it. This means that the faculty cannot initiate the review. One senator who was a dean said that the input was

helpful. The BOT can already initiate a review so this is effectively taking the power to initiate a review away from the faculty. There is no provision for the faculty to approach the BOT to petition for a review. In the contracts for Deans, administrators, and chairs there is a provision that the BOT can sack administrator at any time. Reviews in the past have not been confidential and have been used against administrators. If these reviews could be confidential they would be more comfortable with it. We are a state agency and are subject to FOYA. Talk to your colleagues in your departments and bring the information

Next meeting December 14th

b. Graduate Council discussed the strategic Plan and student health insurance

7. College Reports.

a. Adding an avenue into the MS program with a non-thesis option. Jackie Kosier has left for the College of Nursing so Student Services is looking for someone to replace Jackie. Work will continue toward a new strategic plan for the university, then colleges, and departments.

b. Workplace development will help address how our programs can help working students. There will be a presentation on active learning strategies Jan. 14th

8. Standing Committee Reports

a. Curriculum Committee, Bamber, one item: Bioinformatics pipeline in conjunction with the health campus. This doesn't change the curriculum but gives students the ability to identify themselves as part of the Bioinformatics pipeline.

Motion from the Curriculum Committee so vote is called and no second is necessary. 16 yes, 0 no, motion from the Curriculum Committee passes.

9. Adjournment: Motion and second. Meeting adjourned, 5:00.