

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – February 4, 2013

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, February 4, 2013. All chairs were present.

### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from the 12-3-12 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Addison discussed concerning the old general education courses being grandfathered into UCA's new core. Dr. Addison asked the chairs to consider ways that some of CNSM's courses might meet the diversity requirements.
3. The scheduling of fall 2013 classes was discussed. It was pointed out that freshman registration will begin earlier this year. Admissions is targeting the third week of May for freshman registration.

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Addison reminded the chairs about the upcoming Posters at the Capitol event that takes place in the capitol rotunda Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Dean Addison announced that the course Knowledge and Learning must be offered for the 2013-2014 academic year to facilitate the STEMteach program.
3. Dr. Adams reminded the chairs that February 15<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date to launch Digital Measures. Dr. Adams offered to meet with any faculty needing to review the process.

### Chairs Reports:

#### Biology:

- Dr. Cash reported that UCA Biology graduate student, Adam Musto, won Best Oral Presentation at the Arkansas Fisheries Society Meeting January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. UCA Biology student, Haley Seay, won Best Oral Presentation in the undergraduate division.

#### Chemistry:

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Victoria Dunlap has accepted the open biochemistry faculty position in the Chemistry Department.

## Computer Science:

- Dr. Hu reported that former vice president of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Dr. Albert Joseph Turner, will be on campus to review the MS degree program from March 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

## Math:

- Dr. Garimella reported that for the next three weeks, seven candidates, three in mathematics education and four in mathematics/applied mathematics, will be here at UCA for on-campus interviews for the tenure-track positions.
- A poster presented by mathematics majors, Thomas Deatherage and Brandon Ashley, mentored by Dr. Danny Arrigo titled *Hopf-Cycle Type Transformations for a Viscous Burger Equation* received honorable mention as an outstanding poster at the Joint Mathematics Meetings held in San Diego during the second week of January 2013. JMM is the premiere mathematical meeting in the country attended by well over 6000 mathematicians. There were a total of 304 posters presented at the meetings including some by undergraduates from Princeton, Harvard, MIT, Rice, University of Chicago, and University of Michigan. Only 15% were recognized as outstanding and the above mentioned poster by UCA math students was one of the. Both Thomas and Brandon conducted their research for the project during summer 2012.
- The Math Department is offering, for the first time, an 8-week Trigonometry (Math 1392) course starting March 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ramesh Garimella will be the instructor.
- Drs. Danny Arrigo and Jason Martin presented papers at the 2013 Joint Mathematical Meetings in San Diego during January 8-12.
- Dr. Charles Watson, associate professor of mathematics, is the president-elect of the Faculty Senate.

## Physics:

- Dr. Frederickson reported that Dr. Andrew Mason attended the AAPT Winter Meeting 2013, in New Orleans, LA, on January 5-9. He was appointed vice chair of the Committee on Graduate Education in Physics. The appointment is for one year starting at the end of the 2013 Winter Meeting and ending of the 2014 Winter Meeting. As vice chair this year, Dr. Mason will become the chair at the end of the 2014 Winter Meeting and serve a one-year term as chair. Duties are to organize the committee's sponsorship of the equivalent of up to 1 workshop and up to 2 oral paper sessions for AAPT's winter and summer meetings, 1 year in advance, and to otherwise promote interest in graduate education as desired. Dr. Mason also made three presentations at the meeting. One oral presentation titled *Reflection on Problem Solving: Application to Life Science Majors* and one poster presentation titled *Computer Coaches for Problem Solving: Application to High School Physics*, co-authored with Mishal Benson, a senior BSE student. Dr. Mason as a panel member and organizer of this session, made a presentation titled

*Confessions of a First-Year Faculty.*

- Matthews Hankins, a senior physics major, participated in a press conference at the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the American Astronomical Society. Matthew was part of a panel discussing research projects exploring the center of the Milky Way galaxy. During the summer of 2012, Matthew worked at Cornell University on the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA). This is an observatory that flies on a modified Boeing 747. Matthew has been offered the opportunity to fly with SOFIA as part of the installation and testing phase for the observatory.
- Seven female physics majors and one female computer science major recently attended one of two Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP), January 18-20. The CUWiP's are three-day regional conferences for undergraduate women majors. UCA Physics majors Ashley Hicks and Mishal Benson and computer science major Melissa Beltran attended the conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Physics majors Shelby Burns, Rebecca Brinker, Sarah Spellman, Maggie Block, and Erin Moravee attended the conference at the University of Texas at Austin. Shelby Burns presented a research poster titled *Wine Glass Resonance Experiment and Demonstration*, at the meeting. The CUWiP goal is to help undergraduate women continue in physics by providing them with the opportunity to experience a professional conference, information about school and professions in physics, and access to other women in physics of all ages with whom they can share experiences, advice, and ideas.
- Dean Addison attended the 2013 American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) Winter Meeting in New Orleans, LA, January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. He made two presentations titled *UCA STEMteach: Transforming a Teacher Education Program*, (co-authored by Dr. Gary Bunn), and *Recruiting and Retaining Women in Physics in Central Arkansas*.
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