

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – January 24, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, January 24, 2011. All chairs were present.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 12-20-10 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Runge updated the council of chairs on his recent meeting with President Meadors. Building plans, the EPIC Residential College proposal, the Nature Reserve preservation and Diversity Plans were among the topics discussed. Dean Runge announced that next week's CoC will have only one agenda item: facilities planning for the College.
3. Dean Runge asked the chairs to be thinking about CNSM's use of the ARE-ON network.
4. Dean Runge initiated a discussion about the UCA Magazine. The chairs were asked to consider faculty to be highlighted in the magazine.
5. The March 17<sup>th</sup> natural disaster exercise was discussed. The chairs were asked to work on drafts of Continuity of Operations plans. Dean Runge set the deadline for the third week of February to get the plans into the Dean's office. The plans will be discussed and modified into an acceptable working plan for CNSM.
6. Handouts on the ABET Faculty Workshop on Sustainable Assessment Processes in Dallas were distributed to the chairs. Dean Runge asked the chairs to encourage faculty participation in the workshop. Dr. Hu suggested that the chair of the department's assessment committees would benefit from the workshop.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge announced that drafts of the 3-year degree completion plans have been sent to the President and Provost.
2. The Council of Deans has addressed the top 5 money and no money strategic plan initiatives. The Executive Committee of the Academic Council will meet Friday on the issue and then it will be sent before the full Academic Council.
3. Dean Runge announced that he will be attending a Career Development Conference in Eureka Springs March 14<sup>th</sup>. He noted that he will be making two 50 minute presentations to high school counselors from across the state. This will be an excellent opportunity to promote careers in STEM fields and the existing

initiatives ongoing at UCA.

4. Reviving the high school workshops was discussed. It was pointed out that our student clubs staff these workshops. Plans will be developed to restart this annual event.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that approximately 120 high school students from Conway, Greenbrier and Russellville attended the Preparatory Sessions in AP Calculus, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The sessions were held from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with a 30 minute lunch break. Both breakfast and lunch were provided by the UCA Office of Admissions. The event was coordinated by Dr. Umadevi Garimella, ACMSE Director, Mrs. Penny Hatfield, Admissions and Ms. Jenna Erbach Williams, an award winning math teacher at Greenbrier High School. The AP sessions were sponsored by the Arkansas Advanced Initiative for Math and Science, (AAIMS). According to Jean Pharr, Director of UALR Math programs, funding sources for AAIMS programs include the Exxon Mobil Corporation and Gates Foundation. Two more preparatory sessions are planned for this spring at UCA.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the first of three candidates for the open Inorganic Chemistry position will be on campus this week. The other two candidates will on campus next week.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that Dr. Sinan Kockara, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, received two research subcontracts from UAMS to support Computer Science graduate students. The total amount is \$33,000 (\$15,000 from ASTA and \$18,000 from UAMS).

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that the search for Biology's open position is progressing. At a recent departmental meeting the issue of prerequisite grades for support courses was discussed.

#### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison gave progress reports on both Biology Chair search and the open Physics position.

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – January 31, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, January 31, 2011. All chairs were present.

### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes of the 1-24-11 CoC meeting were approved as amended.
2. CNSM facilities planning, including square feet needed for relevant departments, was discussed at length. The chairs offered options and preferences. Dean Runge explained that the plans need to be made modular in design. Plans should accommodate 15,000 students.

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Runge came to the meeting directly from President Meadors' working lunch and reported on the meeting. One item of information from the meeting was that spring 2011 commencement will remain the same as in recent years.
2. Dr. Frederickson distributed handouts of the projected budgets. He asked the chairs to get any modifications and requests for "new money" to him by Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Chairs Reports:

#### Biology:

- Dr. Adams reported that Drs. Vohra, Starkey, Naylor and Hill received notification that their Competitive Equipment Award proposal (\$9,605.00) submitted to Arkansas INBRE has been awarded. The purchase of a NanoDrop 2000 will enhance nucleic acid and protein quantification research at UCA.
- Drs. Swanson and Starkey and three students recently attended the Plant and Animal Genome Meeting in San Diego, CA. The group delivered four poster presentations.

#### Chemistry:

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the Chemistry Department will be graduating approximately 14 students in the spring commencement.

**Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that former President of Alltel Financial Service Division, Collins Andrews, spoke with upper level Computer Science students about career successes and opportunities on January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- More than 40 students participated in the Computer Science Club meeting during X-period on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Math:**

- Dr Garimella reported that he has received an email from ASTA stating that the proposal, "The MSIT Academy @ UCA" for the summer program in mathematics and sciences for high school students in central Arkansas in the amount of \$10,000 has been approved.
- The Math Department received a positive report from the NCATE on its accreditation review. Our mathematics education program and assessments met the NCATE national standards.

**Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that the Biology chair search has been narrowed to 7 applicants.

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – February 7, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, February 7, 2010. All chairs were present. Ms. Berdie Eubank, Ms. Kelsey Smyth and Ms. Jenny Rudd from the Advising Center were guests.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Dean Runge introduced Ms. Berdie Eubank, Advising Center Director, Ms. Kelsey Smyth, Academic Advisor for undeclared Residential College students, and Ms. Jenny Rudd, Academic Advisor for half of the CNSM freshmen students. Introducing 5-year degree completion plans, as well as the established 4-year degree completion plans were discussed. A major concern for all involved is facilitating the transition for Freshmen students in the interest of student retention. Several options, including looking more closely at some of our more intense programs, were suggested. This will be an ongoing project.
2. Minutes from 1-31-11 CoC were approved as amended.
3. Dr. Frederickson discussed the due dates for Student Research Proposals. Due dates for academic year 2011-12 will be set at the end of the spring semester.
4. The Cooperative Education Internship Banquet, which will be held March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. was discussed. It was decided that the CNSM speaker at the banquet will rotate among the chairs. Dr. Stephen Addison will be the speaker at the upcoming event.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dr. Frederickson announced that he has received 5 nominations for the CNSM Outstanding Student award.
2. Dean Runge announced that course evaluations were discussed at the most recent COD. Chairs were asked for suggestions on how to improve the response level for the on-line implementation.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that Dr. Bhupinder Vohra presented an invited seminar at the UAMS Department of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences on

February 1<sup>st</sup>. His seminar was entitled *Multiple Mechanisms of Axonal Degeneration Share a Common Nmnat1-sensitive Pathway*.

- Dr. J.D. Swanson and UCA students, A. Kellogg, T. Branaman, N. Jones and C. Little, had a paper entitled *Morphological Studies of Developing Rubus Prickles Suggest that they are Modified Glandular Trichomes* accepted to be published in the Journal of Botany.
- The Biology Department will be interviewing 2 candidates for the Biology I and II Course Coordinator position Lecturer I during the week of February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported Ms. Pam Massey from the Internal Audit office has recently asked him to complete an in-depth safety survey concerning lab safety within the Chemistry department. They will meet next month.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Department participated in the Mayflower Schools Science Night February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that the Mathematics Department is in the process of bringing in 6 candidates for the 2 open math positions.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that he, Drs. Carl Frederickson and Rahul Mehta will be taking 10 physics students to the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas to work on the linear accelerator on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- On Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> Josh Gladden of the University of Mississippi's National Center for Physical Acoustics presented the seminar *Elasticity in Novel Thermoelectrics and Metallic Hydrides at High Temperatures and Pressures*. Dr. Gladden also presented information to students about attending graduate school in Physics at the University of Mississippi.

# **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

## **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – February 14, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, February 14, 2011. All chairs were present.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 2-7-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. The Master Plan Kick-Off & Stakeholder Interviews January 21, 2011 report was distributed and discussed. Dean Runge asked the chairs to closely study the report and to send comments/suggestions to the Dean's office by noon Friday. It was recommended that the Academic Council also have an opportunity to review the report.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge gave an update of the STEM Coalition Board Meeting, which took place via conference call last week during the snowstorm. There will be a STEM Summit April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> on Petit Jean Mountain. Governor Beebe will be invited to speak. Dean Runge encouraged the chairs to attend. The next general STEM Coalition Board Meeting is March 7<sup>th</sup> in Little Rock.
2. Dean Runge reminded the council of Bear Facts Day on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Dr. Frederickson announced that the annual Arkansas Academy of Science Conference will take place at UA-Monticello on April 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Chairs should poll their faculty to determine who will be attending and send that information to Dr. Frederickson by March 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. Dr. Frederickson announced that in accordance with the Responsible Conduct of Research Compliance, UCA's office of Sponsored Programs is developing eight-hour face-to-face training workshops for faculty and students working on federal grants. The training will likely begin this fall and be effective for three years. The Federal Government is requiring the face-to-face training as a condition for all new grant recipients to comply with the RCRC regulations. Sponsored Programs is working to provide this training campus wide to make the process as efficient as possible for PIs. This is a federally mandated program.

## **Chairs Reports:**

### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that the search for the open Biology I & II Course Coordinator is progressing.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the search committee has selected a viable candidate for Chemistry's open position and the paperwork to make an offer is proceeding.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Club recently had a very successful joint meeting with the Technology Club from the College of Business.
- The Computer Science Department is organizing a summer teacher workshop to be held July 7-11, 2011. Twenty-four teachers from central Arkansas have signed up to attend.

### **Math:**

- No report.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that he would be at UA-Monticello next Monday working with the BS/BSE dual-degree program articulation details.
- On February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Addison will be reviewing physics programs at 4-year institutions in Louisiana.



## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – February 21, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, February 21, 2011. All chairs were present except for Dr. Addison.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 2-14-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. A memo dated February 16, 2011 from Tom Courtway regarding textbooks was distributed to the chairs and discussed. Custom publishing and the use of textbooks authored by faculty members were considered. Dean Runge pointed out that the law states that institutions must develop guidelines for the use of these materials. This issue will be addressed at an upcoming COD.
3. Dr. Garimella handed out copies of the Math Department's Policy and Procedures for Peer Review of Teaching Effectiveness and explained how the procedures were developed and how they are being implemented. Discussion followed.
4. Copies of the CNSM bylaws recently compiled by the Dean's Advisory Council were distributed. Dean Runge asked the chairs to go over the draft and if needed, offer suggestions before the document goes to the faculty for a vote. This item will be placed on the February 28<sup>th</sup> CoC agenda for discussion.
5. Dean Runge disbursed information about the Night of Distinction, a gala and silent auction benefitting Alumni Association scholarships in celebration of the association's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The date for the event is Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Farris Center.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reported on the very successful ABET Faculty Workshop on Sustainable Assessment Processes in Dallas held Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Drs. Runge, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Rick Tarkka, Patrick Carmack, William Slaton, Don Perry, Yu Sun, Krista Peppers and Ms. Leah Horton attended the workshop. Dean Runge felt that the workshop was very worthwhile and provided the college with a solid framework for moving forward with our assessment programs. Dean Runge expressed appreciation for the CNSM group who attended for collectively engaging in the workshop. Within the next few weeks Dean Runge will host a meeting of the group so that the information can be reviewed and the next steps of planning and implementing our assessment programs can proceed.

## Chairs Reports:

### Biology:

- Dr. Adams reported that Dr. J.D. Swanson was elected to the US Rosaceae Genetics, Genomics, and Breeding Executive Committee for 2011-2014. Among other things, this group is charged with defining research priorities and coordinating interactions between researchers, industry, and the public on issues related to this large, important group of plants.
- Dr. Sally Entrekin and Dr. Ginny Adams recently attended a meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Little Rock. Approximately 30 UCA students attended the meeting and students and faculty gave eight presentations. UCA student Loren Stearman won the Best Student Presentation award. Former student Richard Walker won the Best Professional Presentation. Clint Johnson was selected as the Best Student in the UCA student chapter for 2010. Dr. Ginny Adams was recognized for her service as Arkansas Chapter President for 2010-2011

### Chemistry:

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Dr. Cameron Dorey has resigned from the Chemistry Department effective the end of spring 2011. CNSM thanks Dr. Dorey for his years of service to the college and the UCA community.

### Computer Science:

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Department has received a \$500 scholarship from the Arkansas Academy of Computing.

### Math:

- Dr. Garimella reported that mathematics and art major, Haley Miller, a recent UCA graduate, has been accepted to the UAMS Medical School. She worked with math major Derek Anderson under Dr. Fred Hickling on a undergraduate research project last fall. Haley and Derek presented their poster at the joint national meetings of AMS & MAA in New Orleans last month.
- Dr. R.B. Lenin gave a seminar titled *Introduction to Discrete Event Systems Simulation* in the Department of Computer Science at UALR on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Math Education interviews continue. Two have been scheduled for the week of February 21-25 and another for Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Physics:

- Dr. Scott Austin's article *The Chromospheric Activity of {HH97} FS Aur-79, a Close Binary with Late-type Active (dK7e+dM3e) Components* has been accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Astronomical Society.

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – February 28, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, February 28, 2011. All chairs were present.

### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from the 2-21-11 were approved as amended.
2. College Bylaws were discussed. Dean Runge asked the chairs to have comments to the Dean's office by Wednesday.
3. Technology enhancements in CNSM classrooms and equipment purchases for the UCA STEM Institute and STEM Residential College were discussed.

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Runge reported on the luncheon meeting with Provost Grahn, the UCA Council of Deans, Dr. Dan Lu and members of the Chinese delegation, which consisted of three Deans from Sanya College. Collaborative opportunities between our two institutions was the topic of discussion.

### Chairs Reports:

#### Biology:

- Dr. Adams reported the Darwin Birthday Celebration has been rescheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be exhibits, food and giveaways in the LSC lobby from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. At 9:25 a.m. Biology faculty member Dr. Ben Waggoner will give a presentation titled *Darwin and His Barnacles* in LSC 102. At 12:15 p.m. Dr. Jason Wiles, Assistant Professor at Syracuse University, will present *Seeing the Light of Evolution: An Arkansan's Journey Toward Understanding and Acceptance of Biological Change* in LSC 102.

#### Chemistry:

- No report.

#### Computer Science

- Dr. Hu reported that the REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) grant for \$324,997 has been funded by the National Science Foundation. UAMS will be involved in the collaboration.

**Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that Dr. Pat Carmack gave a talk at the Brain Image Center (BIRC) at UAMS on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The ACTM Regional Math Contest will be held in the Department of Mathematics on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Approximately 100 middle and high school students from this region are expected to participate in the event.

**Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that he, Dr. Rahul Mehta, Dr. Carl Frederickson and six UCA physics students recently visited the University of North Texas to work with their linear accelerator.
- Two candidates for the open Physics position have been approved for interviews.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – March 7, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, March 7, 2011. All chairs were present except for Dr. Adams. Ms. Leah Horton attended representing the Biology Department.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 2-28-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Ms. Horton addressed the challenges regarding English-language proficiency in Biology classes, especially in some laboratories. Dean Runge pointed out that Dr. Alex Chen, Director of International Programs, has advised that if there is a problem the student should be directed to IEP for further testing and assistance.
3. The GEP Student Cultural Information paperwork was distributed and discussed by the chairs. Both Dean Runge and Ms. Horton reported on a recent meeting with Dr. Alex Chen.
4. The latest draft of the strategic planning initiatives was reviewed by the council of chairs. Several ideas for revisions were put forth. Dean Runge asked the chairs to get all changes to the Dean's office by noon Friday.
5. Support for student travel to professional conferences was discussed. Preference will always be given to those students who are making presentations at the meetings. Requests for support from student clubs to attend their annual conferences will be considered each fall semester, but funding is not guaranteed and will be capped at a dollar amount to be determined. An announcement soliciting these types of group travel will be made early in the fall semester.
6. The May 7<sup>th</sup> spring commencement was discussed. Dean Runge explained that the stage party is changing and Deans, Associate Deans and Chairs will be on stage. It will be necessary to appoint faculty to marshal the graduate and undergraduate lines. It was suggested that newly tenured faculty be given the opportunity to perform this function. Dean Runge also announced that the acoustic physics faculty with expertise in acoustics have been invited to address the acoustic problems in the Farris C enter.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge announced that a draft budget for academic affairs was passed out at the most recent COD.
2. The COD has been discussing the 20% cap for scholarships to be met for all schools by 2012. UCA has already met this requirement but it was noted that UCA still spends more E & G on scholarships than any other state-supported school in Arkansas.

3. Dean Runge reported on the STEM Coalition Board Meeting that he had just attended prior to the CoC. The UTeach model was discussed at the board meeting and this model of preparation for secondary teachers in science and mathematics is gaining considerable traction at the State level.
4. Dean Runge expressed appreciation to all the participants in the Friday night, March 4<sup>th</sup>, working dinner on Assessment. CNSM is excited to move forward on the development and implementation of an outstanding assessment program that will be designed to ensure that our educational programs will become programs of national distinction. Dean Runge especially thanks all of the faculty members in attendance for their time, effort and creative thinking as we embark on this process.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Ms. Horton reported that Dr. Ben Rowley received Faculty Development funding to attend the Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching later this semester.
- Biology student Jordan Bird received recognition for his participation in the NIH sponsored INBRE summer research program during summer 2010. Jordan worked with Dr. Ines Pinto at the University of Arkansas on a project entitled *Mutational Analysis of Histone H2A Serene 20 in Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Chemistry students Brian Besel and Jared Evanov spoke at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research Conference on February 26<sup>th</sup>. The conference which showcased 50 talks representing students from 7 states was held at the University of Memphis. The title of Brian's talk was *Immobilized Boron-Centered Heteroscorpionates: Heterocycle Methathesis and Coordination Chemistry*. The title of Jared's talk was *Molybdenum (0) Tricarbonyl Complexes Involving a New Heteroscorpionate and Resin-Supported Complexes*.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that Dr. Bernard Chen and Dr. Sinan Kockara have submitted proposals to INBRE for summer research fellowships.
- Dr. Hu reported on his presentation at the East Conference in Hot Springs March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Math:** No report.

**Physics:** No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – April 4, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, April 4, 2011. All chairs were present.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the March 7, 2011 were approved as amended.
2. The Arkansas State Science Fair was discussed. Dr. Mark Bland has done an excellent job as director for the past five years but due to time restraints he has expressed the desire to step down from the position if sufficient reassignment cannot be accommodated within the Biology Department. The council presented other names within the college for consideration.
3. The 5-Year Minority Recruitment and Retention Plan for 2012-2017 was discussed. Provost Grahn has reviewed the CNSM draft diversity proposal and has asked Dean Runge to clarify the details in some areas. This will be an agenda item again on next week's CoC agenda.
4. Dr. Will Slaton is looking for a candidate to replace him as the state director of the Arkansas Science Talent Search. The Chairs will be looking for candidates within their respective departments.
5. An on-line survey of academic affairs is expected to be distributed from the President's office this week.
6. Dr. Mauldin opened a discussion concerning minor/major issues regarding biology and environmental science majors with chemistry minors. It was decided not to make an exception to the current rules regarding the use of courses for both the major and the minor. If the courses are part of the major coursework (not a related requirement) they are not eligible to also be used for a minor. Dean Runge will relay the decision to Mr. Sitz.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reported that his recent trip (March 17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>) to China was very productive. We have a preliminary agreement for a collaborative project investigating the anti-cancer effects of Pu'er tea, a plan is being developed for a "2+3" student exchange for Chinese students to come to UCA for their last three years of the combined BS/MS program, and other ideas for student and faculty exchanges in the College.

2. Dean Runge received a thank you letter from the president of the pre-med club for assisting with their trip to a national conference with support split evenly between the Dean's Office and the Biology Department. Mr. Wilson Alobuia. Mr. Alobuia was elected at the meeting to the position of Regional Director for Region 7.
3. Dr. Frederickson discussed the new UCA Financial Aid Office Student Funding Request form. Because of some confusion concerning this form Dr. Frederickson is going to meet with Ms. Cheryl Lyons, Director of Financial Aid for clarification.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that he received a grant for \$21,000 from the Fish America Foundation and Perry County, Arkansas to study the effectiveness of a fish passage restoration project on Mill Creek.
- Biology faculty and staff, including Kristie Hicks, Mark Bland, David Starkey, Jerry Mimms, Leah Horton and Leigh Ann DenHartog, were instrumental in the recent success of the Arkansas State Science Fair hosted at UCA. Numerous other biology faculty participated as judges. The fair has experienced significant growth in student participation and external donations, including generous contributions from Southwestern Energy.
- Former graduate student Ram Pandey and co-advisors Drs. Ginny Adams and Laurie Warren recently published a paper entitled *Survival and Precopulatory Guarding Behavior of *Hyaella Azteca* Exposed to Nitrate in the Presence of Atrazine* in the journal, *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Dr. Lei Yang has been hired to fill the Chemistry Department's vacant tenure-track position in inorganic chemistry.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr Hu reported that the Computer Science Department received a \$15,000 grant from Google for the 2011 CS4HS program. Approximately 30 high school teachers will participate in the workshop in summer 2011.
- The Computer Science Department hosted the 2011 Mid-South Region Conference of the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC) April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at UCA. Participants were from Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas.
- A total of 21 teams participated in the CCSC Programming contest. Team UCA won 4<sup>th</sup> place.



## **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that David Ekrut, a senior MS student in applied mathematics, has received an assistantship in the amount of \$18,000 plus tuition and fee waiver to pursue a Ph.D degree in Mathematical Biology at Florida State University in Tallahassee. FSU awarded assistantships to only 15 students out of a pool of 130 applicants into the program for fall 2011. Presently, David is working on his masters' theses with Drs. Danny Arrigo and Long Le and will graduate at the end of the summer. David co-authored a paper in PDES with Drs. Arrigo and Le that appeared in the Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications, a top tier journal in Mathematics.
- The Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematic (ACTM) held the Regional Math Contest on Saturday, March 5, 2011 on our campus. Approximately 175 high school and middle school students participated in the contest on Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-calculus and Trigonometry, Calculus, and Statistics. Dr. Ramesh Garimella (Chair of UCA Mathematics Department), Dr. Carolyn Pinchback (Professor of Mathematics and Regional Director of the ACTM contest), Ms. Loi Booher (Regional Co-Director of the ACTM contest), and Mr. Jon Summers (Graduate Assistant) assisted in organizing the contest and awards ceremony. Trophies were presented to the top three finishers and certificates to the honorable mentions in each category. Regional winners from each of the fifteen regions will compete in the State Contest on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The event will be hosted by the Department of Mathematics on our campus.
- The Department of Mathematics and the UCA STEM Institute hosted the preparatory sessions for AP Calculus, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science on March 12 and April 2. Approximately 100 students from Conway, Greenbrier and Russellville High Schools attended each session. The sessions were sponsored by the Arkansas Advanced Initiative in Math and Science (AAIMS) which received funding from Exxon Mobil and the Gates Foundation. The Office of Admissions provided breakfast and lunch for the students.

## **Physics:**

- No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – April 11, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, April 11, 2011. All chairs were present.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the April 4, 2011 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Act 747 of 2011 was discussed. It was agreed that more deliberation is needed and faculty input needs to be solicited before any general recommendations can be made. It was noted that any curriculum change proposals from the departments need to be submitted no later than early in the Fall 2011 semester if we are to meet the deadlines outlined in the new law. Dean Runge asked the chairs to poll their respective faculty on the question.
3. College Faculty Awards, College Awards and Faculty Seminar Series were discussed. It was decided that the Faculty Seminar Series will begin fall 2011. Although awarding student awards at the Poster Symposium was considered, it was decided that the departments will handle the Student Awards this year. However, the Slaton/Abrams Award for "Best Departmental Honors Thesis" will be bestowed at the beginning of the Poster Symposium. Faculty will be recognized at the college faculty and staff meeting at the beginning of the fall semester, with a College-wide awards event planned for Spring 2012.
4. Drafts of the college Mission Statement and the Vision Statement from the Dean's Advisory Committee were dispersed. Changes to the Mission Statement were recommended and approved. These will now move toward approval by the faculty in the College.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dr. Frederickson reported on the CLAD meeting that he attended immediately prior to the CoC. Mandatory three-hour grant workshops, sponsored by Sponsored Programs, for administrative assistants will be held during May. The dates will be announced later. Dr. Frederickson asked the chairs to send him names of those who will attend.
2. Dr. Frederickson also announced that the implementation of the new UCA Financial Aid Office Student Funding Request form that was discussed at the last CoC has been postponed. The current guidelines still prevail until further notice.
3. Dean Runge reminded the council that the annual Poster Symposium will be held Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:45 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Set up time is noon until 1:00 p.m. in the McCastlain Ballroom.

4. Dean Runge informed the CoC that Ms. Berdie Eubank, Director of the Advising Center, has set June 2<sup>nd</sup> as the official date for advising of transfer students.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that Richard Walker defended his Master's thesis in biology entitled *Movement Patterns of Southern Redbelly Dace in a Headwater Reach of an Ozark Stream*. Richard was recently employed by an environmental consulting firm in Arkansas.
- Edward Kluender defended his Master's thesis in biology entitled *Seasonal Habitat Use of a Leviathan, Alligator Gar, in a River-Floodplain Ecosystem*. Ed was recently employed as an ecologist with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.
- Dr. Ken Britten, Center of Neuroscience, University of California-Davis, presented a seminar in the Biology Department on April 8<sup>th</sup> as part of the Biology Seminar Series. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Arkansas IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence.
- The Biology Department would like to thank Drs. Charles Harvey and Steve Addison for their dedicated service on the search committee to hire a new biology chair.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the following faculty and students attended the American Chemical Society National Meeting in Anaheim, CA March 27-31, 2011: Drs. Steelman, Yarberr, Desrochers, Tarkka, Perry and Taylor, and students Brian Besel, Mary Freres, Kendall Fancher, Tsungyen Chen, Taylor Razer, Kristin Thorvilson, Elizabeth Dourlain, Bryce Grant, Brandi Bowlin, Andi Kirkpatrick, Casey Thurber, Tristan Phillips, Mary Davis, Phillip Cook, Kaleb Smithson, Jabin Miller, Derek Watts and Jared Evnbiv.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the UCA Computer Science Software Design team won third place in the National Final of Microsoft 2011 Imagine Cup. Congratulations to team members: Brendan Lee and Muhyeddin Ercan. Dr. Sinan Kockara is their faculty advisor.
- Computer Science graduating senior, Jason Barnes, has accepted a full scholarship awarded by Washington University in St. Louis to pursue his Ph.D degree in Computer Science starting this fall.

## Math:

- The Department of Mathematics is happy to announce that the two tenure-track searches for mathematics education faculty members have been successful. One position was accepted by Dr. Jason Martin, currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Research and Innovations in Mathematics and Science Education at Arizona State University. Dr. Martin received his Ph.D from the University of Oklahoma in August 2009. The second position was accepted by Ms. Jungeun Park. At present, Ms. Park is a doctoral student in mathematics education at Michigan State University. She defended her dissertation and will receive her Ph.D at the 2011 spring commencement. Both Dr. Martin and Ms. Park will join the Department as tenure-track assistant professors in August 2011.
- Dr. Umadevi Garimella (PI) and Dr. Ramesh Garimella (Co-PI) received a \$105,382 grant from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education for the project *Algebra I and Implementation of Common Core Standards*. Three mathematics faculty members, Drs. Ramesh Garimella, Linda Griffith, and Jean McGehee, will present the content workshops in summer 2011 to assist the Algebra I teachers implement the common core standards.

## Physics:

- Dr. Addison reported that the Physics Department was well represented at the Annual Arkansas Academy of Science Meeting at the University of Arkansas-Monticello on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Students and faculty who represented papers or posters were, faculty: Stephen Addison, Debra Burris, Carl Frederickson, Rahul Mehta, and William Slaton; students: Petey Bland, Jacob Fenske, Roy (Trey) French, Vinh Lu, Tristan Odelirk, Niravkumar Patel, Jacob Teffs, Matthew Tubbs, Kristopher Watson, Jonathan White and Shuang Xu. Kristopher Watson won third place in the student poster competition with the poster: *Determining Neutron Flux of a Plutonium-Beryllium Source Using Neutron Activation of Indium*. (The poster included five co-authors).

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – April 18, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, April 18, 2011. All chairs were present.

### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from the 4-11-2011 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Act 747 of 2011 was discussed. Dean Runge asked the chairs for results of the polling of the departments concerning the 60-hour core and the 120-hour degree limit. Discussion followed and will continue.
3. Dr. Frederickson distributed paperwork on the UCA Board Policy 408 (Incentive Policy) and the Payment Approval Form. Discussion followed concerning incentive funding for faculty based on availability of state dollars. Faculty input will be solicited and the discussion continued on how we might develop a college policy that was consistent with Board Policy 408 while being more equitable across the college.

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Runge announced that he is attending the Arkansas STEM Policy Summit at the Rockefeller Institute April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and will have the opportunity to address STEM policy needs and barriers at the higher education level with the group. The chairs provided input for the presentation.
2. Dr. Frederickson handed out budgets for next year and reminded the chairs that there is \$2,500 in the URC travel fund to still be used.

### Chairs Reports:

#### Biology:

- Dr. Adams reported that the following Biology Faculty received funding from the University Research Council: Dr. Jeff Padberg-*Neurobiology of the Nine-Banded Armadillo*, Dr. Bhupinder Vohra-*Examining the Role of Nmnat in Peripheral Neuropathy* and Dr. John Choinski-*Photosynthetic Thermotolerance During Cotton Leaf Expansion*.
- Dr. Vickie McDonald has been invited to speak at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute on June 11<sup>th</sup> as a keynote presenter. The title of her presentation will be *Warbler, Deviants and Devils-Tall Stories about Little Birds*.

- Biology graduate student Clint Johnson defended his Master's Thesis on April 12<sup>th</sup>. His thesis is entitled *Recovery of a Lowland Fish Assemblage Following Large-Scale Rotenone Application in Eastern Arkansas*.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Chemistry faculty member, Dr. Melissa Kelley, has been named a finalist for the UCA Teaching Excellence Award for the current year.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that approximately 40 outstanding undergraduates from across the nation have applied for the Health Informatics and Technology (HIT @UCA). This Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) site is funded by the National Science Foundation and is the first Computer Science REU in Arkansas.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that Dr. Long Le, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, has been awarded URC funding in the amount of \$2, 287 to work on the project *Algebra Tiles of iPad*.
- Dr. Garimella announced the student awards in mathematics for the AY 2010: Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant-Jonathan Taylor (MS student in Applied Mathematics), the O.L. Hughes Award for Outstanding Senior Math Student-Jackson Fliss and the Dorothy Long Award for Outstanding Junior Female Math Student-Rachel Tyler. Congratulations to these exceptional students!
- Math faculty member, Dr. Danny Arrigo has been named as a finalist for the UCA Teaching Excellence Award this year.

### **Physics:**

- Drs. Stephen Addison, Carl Frederickson and William Slaton attended the spring meeting of the MidSouth section of the Acoustical Society of America in Oxford, Mississippi on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. They were accompanied by students Ashley Cooper, Roy (Trey) French, John Lahmann, Asami Nishikawa, Tristan Odekirk and Skipper Thurman. The group presented four posters in the poster segment of the meeting. All posters were well received and could lead to a collaboration with the Corps of Engineers ERDC lab in Vicksburg, MS. Representatives from the lab also encouraged our students to apply for summer positions at ERDC next year.
- Dr. Azida Walker has been awarded funding from URC for her research titled *Biophysical Characterization and Model Selection of L-type Voltage Gated Calcium Channel*.

- The Physics Department would like to congratulate its finalists in this year's UCA faculty awards. Dr. Balraj Menion, a finalist in the Teaching Excellence category, Dr. Rahul Mehta, a finalist in the Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity category and Dr. Debra Burris, a finalist in the Service category.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – April 25, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, April 25, 2011. All chairs were present except for Dr. Adams. Dr. Hill represented the Biology Department.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 4-18-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Revision of the CNSM bylaws was considered. The draft bylaws prepared by the Dean's Advisory Committee was reviewed and edited, but not in its entirety. This review will continue at upcoming CoC meetings.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge expressed appreciation for the outstanding Student Poster Symposium which took place Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the McCastlain Ballroom. There were 81 posters presented and 117 students involved. The Poster Symposium is one of CNSM's most important events of the year where we showcase the outstanding work performed by our students and their mentors. Dean Runge would like to thank all of the students who participated, their hardworking mentors and all of the general public who turned out to encourage our future computer scientists, mathematicians, and scientists.
2. Dean Runge announced that the Quantitative Literacy project, spearheaded by Dr. Charles Watson, received a positive response at both the PARCC Team Meeting (April 19<sup>th</sup>) and the STEM Policy Summit (April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>). It is the goal of the project to offer Quantitative Literacy as the first course for college-ready students who are not intending to pursue a degree in a STEM discipline.

#### **Chairs Reports:**

##### **Biology:**

- No report.

##### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Robert Mauldin has been invited to give a lecture at Dr. Jacob White's Professor of the Year Award Ceremony at the University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, Ohio on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Dr. White is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Rio Grande. He earned the Ph.D in Chemistry from Ohio University. Dr. White also earned a BS in Chemistry from Shawnee State



University in Portsmouth, Ohio, where Dr. Mauldin worked as a professor of chemistry for 14 years. While at Shawnee State, Jacob White took several classes with Dr. Mauldin, including Scientific Reasoning, General Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry. Jacob completed an undergraduate research project under the direction of Dr. Mauldin in which they analyzed the compound coniine in *Conium maculatum* (Poison Hemlock) in conjunction with Dr. Bob Deal, a botanist at Shawnee State. Also, Jacob worked as a student employee in the Office of the General Education Program for Dr. Mauldin as Director of General Education.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that Jason Barnes, graduating senior, is the winner of the Computer Science Thesis Award. The title of his thesis is *Optimal Phase Ordering of Traffic Signals to Reduce Stopped Delay*.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that so far the Math Department has awarded 15 graduate teaching assistantships for the AY 2011-12. The distribution of assistantships is as follows: 5 new students in the MA program, 4 new students in the MS program and 6 second-year MS students. The Math Department will have at least 3 more assistantships to award for the next year.
- Drs. Ramesh Garimella and Charles Watson are part of the Complete College American grant writing team lead by Provost Lance Grahn.
- Dr. Linda Griffith will be on loan to ADE for the next 2 years. She will help implement the common core standards in algebra state-wide.

### **Physics:**

- No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – May 6, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Friday May 6, 2011. All chairs were present.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Approval of minutes from 4-25-2011 was tabled until the 5-9-11 CoC.
2. Dates for the 2011 CNSM Chairs' Retreat were discussed. It was agreed that two days during the first two weeks of August will work out best for the majority of those needing to attend.
3. President Meadors has asked Provost Grahn for a meeting of potential stakeholders for offering application oriented degrees. The council of chairs discussed the potential for such programs, including the pros and cons of pursuing these options.
4. Sedona, the software package currently used successfully by the College of Business was discussed. Sedona is an on-line tool used by faculty and administrators for collecting and collating data for faculty self-evaluations and for department and college Annual Reports. Sedona appears to have many of the features that CNSM is looking for in a reporting software package. Dean Runge expects that a workshop on this software will be offered soon.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reported that at all colleges have agreed that evening classes will start at 6:30 p.m. beginning spring 2012. Variances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
2. Dean Runge reported that the results of the recent Academic Affairs survey have been assembled by the President's office will be available soon.
3. GEP students will be offered, through International Programs, the opportunity to come to UCA for one semester during the fall semester or to stay for a full year (fall and spring semesters). The option of raising the TOEFL score for undergraduate, degree-seeking students from 500 to 550 is being explored. Graduate students are already required to have a TOEFL score of 550 or higher for admission.
4. The Annual Report was discussed at the COD. The EAR will use the ADHE calendar for the timeline of the Annual Report. The data will be due to the Provost at the end of the fall semester. The information will come from Institutional Research after the 11<sup>th</sup> day of classes during the fall semester. It will be collated by January 15, 2012.

5. Unexpended Plant Funds for 2012 are being allocated to Academic Affairs to help reduce the number of capital needs in the six academic colleges.
6. Dean Runge reported that Provost Grahn is exploring Comcourse, a company that facilitates on-line course support and instruction. Provost Grahn plans to present demonstration of Comcourse Co. at the May 18<sup>th</sup> COD.
7. Dean Runge and Computer Science Chair, Dr. Chenyi Hu, visited ASMSA in Hot Springs Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. They met with both students and the schools administrators. Dean Runge and Dr. Hu discussed the STEM Residential College as well as concurrent credit. A concerted effort will be made to step up our interactions with students at ASMSA. Hopefully this will lead to an increasing number of their graduates choosing to attend UCA.
8. Drs. Tom Kimbrell, Laura Bedner and Ms. Phyllis Stewart from the Arkansas Department of Education visited the UCA STEM Institute May 5<sup>th</sup> for a lengthy discussion on the activities of the STEM Institute and it's value to UCA and the State of Arkansas. The ADE Team also toured the STEM Institute facilities.

#### **Chairs Reports:**

##### **Biology:**

- Deferred until 5-9-11 meeting.

##### **Chemistry:**

- Deferred until 5-9-11 meeting.

##### **Computer Science:**

- Deferred until 5-9-11 meeting.

##### **Math:**

- Deferred until 5-9-11 meeting.

##### **Physics:**

- Deferred until 5-9-11 meeting.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – May 9, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, May 9, 2011. All chairs were present except for Dr. Garimella. Dr. Clarence Burg represented the Math Department.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Approval of minutes from 4-25-11 CoC and 5-6-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. The upcoming Night of Distinction (May 14<sup>th</sup>) was discussed.
3. Dr. Jonathan Glenn's 4-29-11 e-mail pertaining to reports and calendars was discussed. Annual Reports from the department chairs are due to the Dean 7-1-11 and from the Dean's office to the Provost 8-1-11. EAR's are due to the Dean 12-1-11 and then to the Provost 1-15-12.
4. 5-year plans (projected obtainable 5-year improvement in our retention rates and projected obtainable improvements in the 4-5-6 graduation rates) were discussed and a list of ideas developed.
5. CNSM has agreed to work with ASMSA (Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts) to facilitate summer research opportunities for their students. The chairs should give a list of names of those faculty members willing to participate, along with brief summaries of their projects, to Leigh Ann DenHartog. Dean Runge stressed that each student must sign a safety agreement.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dr. Frederickson reported that Registrar Tony Sitz has given Vicky Reid in the CNSM Dean's office access to unreported grade reports. Dr. Frederickson will be frequently sending out the list to chairs.
2. Dr. Frederickson also announced that he, Dr. Ramesh Garimella, Dr. Mark Bland and Dr. Stephen Addison will be attending the 2011 UTeach Institute-NMSI Conference May 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in Austin, Texas.
3. Dean Runge asked the chairs to reexamine and update their space needs in light of a new science building plan being developed.
4. Dean Runge announced that the STEM Residential College residence hall, Arkansas Hall, won the Complex Outstanding Hall Award this year.

Congratulations to Ms. Leah Horton, STEM Residential College Resident Master, Mike Simpson, Arkansas Hall Resident Coordinator and all of the faculty, staff and students who contributed to the successful inaugural year for this program.

## **Chairs Reports:**

### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that two biology graduate assistants, Andrew Gray and Ross Gray, were each presented the Excellence in Teaching award at the Biology spring picnic April 28<sup>th</sup> out at Beaverfork Lake.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> the Biology Department will conduct a Biology Workshop. The topic of discussion will be alignment of courses within the biology major, consistent with our renewed focus on program assessment.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> the University Central Arkansas presented the first Jerald Manion Outstanding Chemistry Student award to Brain Besel, a senior chemistry major from Rogers, AR. The award was made possible after Dr. Slaton Fry of Batesville, a 1980 UCA graduate of the chemistry department and Beebe, AR native and his wife, Diann, established the endowment in honor of the current longest-serving professor at UCA, having begun in 1965. The Jerald Manion Outstanding Chemistry Student award will be awarded annually to the top all-around student in the chemistry department. The student must excel in the classroom, conduct research and give service to the chemistry department and university during their tenure.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Faculty had the 2010-2011 Academic Year retreat April 29<sup>th</sup>. This year's retreat was focused on assessment related issues. Representatives from the Chemistry and Physics Departments participated in the retreat as observers.
- Jason Barnes and Wayne Werner received the May 2011 Outstanding Graduate Awards of the Computer Science Department.
- Computer Science undergraduates, Jason Barnes, Luke Irvin and Reema Taneja a road-show in the Benton Junior High School and the Hope High School on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Led by superintendent John Gray, seventeen high school students from Mayflower High School visited the Computer Science Department on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Our May graduates, Jason Barnes, Luke Irvin and sophomore Reema Taneja shared their experiences with these seventeen students.

**Math:**

- No report.

**Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that physics student Asami Nishikawa was selected as the outstanding departmental thesis award winner for 2011. Asami's Departmental Honors thesis is entitled *The Aeroacoustic Response of Helmholtz Resonators*. Asami will attend the University of Mississippi for graduate school in acoustics. She has been awarded a teaching assistantship and a fellowship to support her graduate education.
- Physics majors Matthew Hankins and Skipper Thurman have been accepted into summer programs. Hankins will be in an REU at the University of Michigan where he will work in the ROTSE (Robotic Optical transient Search Experiment) project, Thurman has been accepted into the BASS (Basic Acoustics Summer School) project at the University of Mississippi.
- The Physics Department is pleased to announce that Dr. Andrew Mason will be joining the department in the fall. Dr. Mason's area of specialization is physics education research.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – June 6, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, June 6, 2011. All chairs were present except for Dr. Hu. Dr. Sun represented the Computer Science Department.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. The UTeach program for the preparation of secondary science and mathematics teachers was discussed. The week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> Drs. Frederickson, Addison, Garimella and Bland attended the UTeach Conference in Austin, Texas. They updated the chairs' council on the conference. A future meeting with the College of Education administration was planned regarding the potential implementation of a program like UTeach at UCA.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that the date for the annual chairs' retreat has been changed to June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at Red Apple Inn in Heber Springs.
2. Dean Runge reminded the chairs to nominate two faculty members to serve on the IDC panel. The purpose of the panel will be for faculty balancing their time as teacher-scholars. The names should be submitted to the Dean's office. Dr. Patty Phelps is the new IDC Director.
3. Dean Runge also prompted the chairs to submit the names of faculty interested in mentoring students from the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Science and the Arts on their summer research projects. Mentoring these student research projects will bring some high quality students into our research programs and it will also serve as a positive recruiting tool.
4. Dean Runge encouraged the chairs to complete their list solicited by President Meadors of notable graduates who finished at UCA prior to 1990. The Alumni Association should be a good starting point for departments that do not have strong databases on their graduates.
5. Dr. Frederickson reported that he, as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Academic Council, recently met with Faculty Senate President, Dr. Janet Wilson, to discuss the criteria that departments should produce for the new rank of senior lecturer. Each department should begin working on those criteria in the fall.

## **Chairs Reports:**

### **Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that the search for the administrative assistant II is progressing.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the faculty response to the Smart Boards being installed was positive.
- Three former chemistry students, Emily Malcolm, Brian Besel and Jabin Miller have been hired to work this summer to assist in addressing the concerns presented in the recent safety audit.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Sun reported that the Computer Science Department REU students have selected research topics, formed research teams and formalized their research plans.
- The computer Science Department is working on scheduling and arranging various activities, including invited talks, industry panels, academic panels and field trips.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that he and Drs. Linda Griffith and Jean McGhee attended a three-day workshop on May 9-11 at the Harding University Center in North Little Rock to finalize the Algebra I modules for all ADHE funded professional development projects for to implement the Common Core State Standards for the AY 2011-12.
- The Math Department has developed bylaws for self-governance, which were unanimously adopted on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Mathematics Department held a retreat to revise the vision and mission statements. Eleven faculty members attended the retreat. Another one took place June 3<sup>rd</sup> to work on program objectives and goals.
- To date, the Math Department has received eighteen applications for the two visiting positions.
- To-date the Math department has awarded fifteen graduate teaching assistantships for the AY 2011-12.
- Dr. Patrick Carmack, assistant professor of mathematics, has received a contract in the amount of \$39,639 from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas for summer 2011, fall 2011 and spring 2012 to conduct research related to brain imaging.



- The Center for Distance Health at the UAMS has offered a contract in the amount of \$16, 379 to Dr. R.B. Lenin to conduct research during this summer on optimal scheduling policy for patients to achieve minimum waiting time using the MedModel software.
- Drs. Ramesh Garimella, Clarence Burg and Vamsi Paruchuri participated in an invited panel presentation on the MSIT Academy @ UCA at the AUTIS meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Hot Springs.
- Thirteen high school students in this region signed up the MSIT Academy @ UCA activities in cryptology and computation revolution. MSIT @ UCA will be held on the UCA campus during the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>. The academy, organized by Drs. Ramesh and Umadevi Garimella, received funding from the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority.

**Physics:**

- Drs. Addison and Burris visited the severe weather observation lab at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK. The Physics Department has established an agreement to send junior lab students to the facility for field measurements and data labs.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – June 13, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, June 13, 2011. All chairs were present. Ms. Jennifer Boyett and Ms. Leigh Ann DenHartog were guests.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Ms. Jennifer Boyett, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relationships at the UCA Foundation, and Ms. Leigh Ann DenHartog, addressed the meeting regarding fund raising efforts. The plan to incorporate the iSMEC (Integrated Science and Mathematics Educational Center) into the plan for construction of a new science building was discussed. Ideas for raising money to support the people and programs that are housed in the College, including the new building, were discussed.
2. Minutes from the 6-6-11 CoC were approved as amended.
3. Dean Runge introduced the idea of a 3+2 Program and opened the table for discussion. Under the present 3+1 plan many CNSM's students go on to professional schools (e.g. pharmacy, dental) before completing an undergraduate degree at UCA. Presently a student who completes the first year of a professional school may produce an official transcript from that institution, and if the grade point average is acceptable and curriculum requirements have been met, the student can apply for graduation and be awarded a BS in General Science. Under a 3+2 Program the BS degree would be awarded automatically upon the student's graduation from professional school. This discussion will continue at an upcoming CoC meeting.

#### **Chairs Reports:**

##### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that the interview process for a visiting position in mathematics education for the 2011-12 academic year will start Monday, June 20, 2011.
- Drs. Linda Griffith and Ramesh Garimella will conduct a series of PD workshops to implement the common Core standards for Algebra I teachers. The first workshop starts on June 14th. The workshops are part of a \$105,382 ADHE grant obtained by Dr. Umadevi Garimella. Dr. Jean McGehee will conduct another set of workshops later in July at the Nashville School District.

## **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin has requested information on safety signs that can be posted on laboratory doors in our college. The signs were designed by the University of Arkansas and are printed by PMC Printing in Fayetteville. Each caution sign has:
  - 1. Removable labels for the particular hazards within each lab (e.g. compressed gases, radiation, eye protection required, etc.).
  - 2. The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) diamond label without numbers in each of the blue, red, and yellow spaces (individuals can assign numbers based on what is in the lab and then write the numbers in the spaces) so that firefighter would know what hazards were in each lab in the event of a fire.
  - 3. A space for contact information. All of this is one sign rather than needing multiple signs for each door. Dr. Mauldin recommends the adoption of this sign for all of the doors to laboratories in our college.

## **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that Dr. Victor Sheng received notification from the National Science Foundation program director that his grant proposal *RUI: Improving Data Quality and Data Mining Using Noisy Micro-Outsourcing* has been recommended for funding.
- Dr. Yu Sun organized an industrial panel of five IT leaders. The panel provided invaluable career advice to students in the NSF REU site at UCA on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Hu participated in the 2011 ACM Federated Computing Research Conference from June 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> and presented his work on *Interval Function and Its Linear Least-Squares Approximation*.

## **Biology:**

- No report.

## **Physics:**

- No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – June 20, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, June 20, 2011. All chairs were present. Leigh Ann DenHartog was a guest.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from 6-13-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. The tracking of alumni was discussed. Emails from the Deans, responding to Provost Grahn's inquiry of how the different colleges collect and maintain data on their alumni, were distributed to the chairs. Suggestions for tracking, including facebook, LinkedIn, phone-a-thons, and exit interviews with graduates, were discussed.
3. Leigh Ann DenHartog discussed Congressman Tim Griffin's visit to campus August 8<sup>th</sup>. She addressed ideas about how we wanted to present CNSM during this visit. Dean Runge suggested that Congressman Griffin should visit working labs (teaching and research) so he can see how we engage our students in the learning process in the college. Ms. DenHartog asked the chairs to send ideas to help plan the itinerary for the visit.
4. The request for information concerning blended AP/ Concurrent courses was discussed. CNSM is not a part of the Higher Education Participation in Arkansas Early College High School (AECHS) AP/ Concurrent Course Delivery program. CNSM will approve concurrent courses only when the partner schools are teaching our courses in all aspects. It was noted that we must of course follow the NACEP guidelines.
5. The issue of the 3+2 Program discussed at last week's CoC was revisited. The current Board Policy on this topic will be reviewed and suggested revisions forwarded through the appropriate channels.
6. The council of chairs continued its efforts on updating the CNSM bylaws.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge updated the group about a meeting at Acxiom on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Potential collaborations between Acxiom and UCA were discussed.

#### **Chairs Reports:**

**Math:**

- No report.

**Chemistry:**

- No report.

**Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that Dr. G. Andrew James from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the UAMS gave an invited talk intitled *Cutting Edge Applications of Functional Neuroimaging in Biomedical Research* on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Faculty members and all students in the NSF REU - HIT @UCA participated.
- On June 20<sup>th</sup>, a panel consisting of Drs. Berleant from UALR, Bian from UAMS, Cisler from UAMS , Hoffman from Acxiom and Clarence Burg from UCA discussed *Careers in Academia* with students in the NSF REU-HIT@UCA program together with the computer science faculty. Dean Runge also joined the discussion. The panel was organized by Dr. Yu Sun.

**Biology:**

- No report.

**Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that this week Dr. William Slaton is conducting a two-day workshop for the Science Lead Teachers Institute (SLTI).

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – June 27, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, June 27, 2011. All chairs were present.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from 6-20-11 were approved as amended.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge announced that he and Dr. Frederickson met this morning with the Web Development staff to discuss converting all CNSM web pages to Word Press. We are going to be allowed to do these conversions ourselves; training sessions will be scheduled in the near future. Dean Runge asked the chairs to carefully edit and update their department sites when converting to Word Press.
2. Jeff Pitchford and Venita Jenkins from Governmental Relations are compiling an online annual report for the past fiscal year. They have asked each college to submit a 500-word report. Dean Runge asked the chairs to assemble a list of bullet points promoting their departments by mid-July. These lists will form the foundation for the College report.
3. Ms. Leigh Ann DenHartog will be the CNSM representative to the UCA Media Communications Committee.
4. Dean Runge reminded the chairs of the General Education Meeting taking place July 6<sup>th</sup> between the CoD and the General Education Council.
5. The changes in the faculty handbook concerning appropriate titles for visiting faculty members were discussed. The term "emergency hire" will no longer be used. The titles of "visiting assistant professor" and "visiting lecturer" will be used from this point forward. A 3-year limit on visiting appointments begins August 2011.
6. Dean Runge reported on his trip to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was encouraged by the many professional programs offered by the Navy and opportunities for CNSM graduates. A Navy representative will be on campus in November to address interested students and faculty advisors.

**Chairs Reports:****Math:**

- No report.

**Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the dumbwaiter in Laney Hall has been repaired. The dumbwaiter provides a safe way to transport chemicals between the second, third, and fourth floors. At present, there is no safe option for transporting chemicals between research labs in the Laney Annex and the stockroom on the fourth floor. The only options now are the stairs and the passenger elevator.

**Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Department together with the Management Information Department (MIS) successfully hosted the Acxiom-UCA IT Camp June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup> here on campus. Acxiom sponsored the event this year.

**Biology:**

- Dr. Adams reported that three applicants for the administrative assistant II position have been interviewed and a decision has been made. An announcement regarding the individual hired will be forthcoming.

**Physics:**

- No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – July 11, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, July 11, 2011. All chairs were present except Drs. Hu and Addison.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Dean Runge welcomed Dr. Ben Cash, the Biology Department's new chair, to the Council of Chairs.
2. Minutes from the 6-26-11 CoC were approved as amended.
3. Dean Runge opened a discussion about the goals and objectives for Academic Affairs prepared by the Office of the Provost. A spreadsheet provided by the Provost's office was distributed.
4. Dean Runge asked the chairs to send Vicky Reid a short paragraph about all new hires (faculty and staff). Vicky will compile the information and send it to Donna Gladwin in the Provost office.
5. Dean Runge reported that the General Education Council Meeting held Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, was very productive. Overall assessment of the program, along with ramifications of the 120-hour cap were discussed. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that we need to have our undergraduate degree programs adjusted to fit within the 120 hr cap mandated by Act 747 of 2011. These modified degree programs, or approved waivers, must be in place by July 1, 2012.
6. Material with a drawing of a generic teaching lab space for our proposed new building was furnished by architect Gene Castin (Stuck Associates) and was passed out to the chairs. The council was asked for feedback. Drs. Runge and Frederickson met with Mr. Castin last week.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge announced that Dr. Jonathan Glenn has been named Chief Information Officer effective August 1, 2011. Dr. Lynn Burley has been named Director of Academic Assessment and Dr. Clay Arnold has been named Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. These two appointments are also effective August 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that he will be meeting with Dr. Robert Parrent, UCA's newly appointed Vice President for Enrollment Management on Friday, July 15th. He asked the chairs to provide updated Program Capacity information to the Dean's office.



3. The chairs were encouraged to attend the Strategic Planning Retreat on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. If a chair cannot attend, a representative from the department should be sent.

**Chairs Reports: No chair reports for this period.**

## COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

### Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – July 18, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, July 18, 2011. All chairs were present; Dr. Frederickson was absent.

#### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from 7-11-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Copies of the CNSM Goals for 2011-12 (aligned with the university's Strategic Planning Initiatives) were distributed to the chairs. Discussion on some minor changes followed.
3. Acting upon a proposal by Dr. William Slaton, it was unanimously approved to plan a "meet and greet" for all new hires in CNSM. Details will be forthcoming.
4. Copies of more drawings, supplied by architect Gene Castin, of a generic teaching lab space were distributed to the chairs and discussion followed. Several safety issues were brought up and particular space needs, such as space for jackets and backpacks, were addressed.
5. Dean Runge apprised the Council of the results of the meeting with Drs. Brent Hill, Kari Naylor, Melissa Kelley, Pat Carmack and Uma Garimella concerning incentive pay. It was stressed that CNSM's incentive pay policy must be consistent with UCA policy. Tom Courtway will be assisting us as we move forward.

#### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Runge reported that his meeting on July 15th with Dr. Robert Parrent, Vice President for Enrollment Management, was very productive. Dean Runge was encouraged by Dr. Parrent's enthusiasm and innovative ideas for strategically increasing enrollment in the college. Dr. Parrent will be invited to a future CoC to address the Council.
2. Dean Runge reported on the Strategic Planning Retreat that he attended July 14<sup>th</sup> in Wingo Hall. Additional planning meetings are likely in the coming months.
3. Dean Runge reported that at the Council of Deans meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> the Global Education Program was discussed. It is anticipated that 124 students are coming from China, 12 of which are interested in programs in CNSM.
4. The chairs were reminded that evening classes should not begin before 6:30 p.m. Dean Runge asked the chairs to send the number of sections added after registration to the Dean's office by Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Chairs Reports:**

### **Biology:**

- The Biology Department welcomes Kate Saunders to the office staff as an Administrative Specialist II.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Faith Yarberry of the Department of Chemistry will serve as Resident Master of the Hughes Residential College, beginning with the fall semester of 2011. The appointment is for a two-year period. Dr. Yarberry will continue to serve as Lecturer I in the Chemistry Department with a reduced teaching load. Dr. Yarberry's involvement in this residential college, which has the theme of leadership, will be a significant contribution to the University as well as the College and the Department.

### **Computer Science:**

- The Computer Science Department hosted the CS4HS (Computer Science for High Schools) Workshop from July 11 through July 14<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen teachers from schools in central Arkansas participated in this workshop to promote computer science and computational thinking in middle and high schools. This workshop is funded by a grant from Google. Hu, Chen Nooner and Thessing worked with these teachers during the entire workshop.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that Mr. Xianping Li has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position with the Math Department for the next academic year. Mr. Li will complete his Ph.D in Applied Mathematics from the University of Kansas in August.
- The search for a Visiting Lecturer position in Mathematics for next year is still underway.
- An Algebra II Workshop, supported by an MSP grant through the Arch Ford Coop, was held in MCST. Drs. Linda Griffith, Ramesh Garimella and Lee (from Kentucky) conducted workshops. The workshop started on Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and continued through Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> with approximately 20 teachers attending.

### **Physics:**

- No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – August 18, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Thursday, August 18, 2011. All chairs were present. Dr. Frederickson was absent.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 7-18-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Discussion and editing of the draft CNSM bylaws was continued from previous meetings. A draft was finalized and deemed ready to be presented to the CNSM faculty for a vote.
3. The list of potential CNSM Advisory Board members was discussed. Discussion also included the role and philosophy of the Board.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge spoke about the Strategic Enrollment Management meeting that he had attended that morning. The meeting was hosted by Dr. Rob Parrent, VP for Enrollment Management, and led by Dr. Jim Black, our external consultant for enrollment management. The chairs were encouraged to attend the meeting with Drs. Parrent and Black at 1:30.
2. Dean Runge discussed the incoming group of student in the Global Education Project (GEP). The four levels of English proficiency for these students were discussed.
3. Dean Runge provided a Fall 2011 enrollment update.
4. The issue of funding off-campus satellite offices was discussed.
5. Dean Runge reported that proposals for additional federal student worker funding is due to the Provost Office Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are due to the Dean's Office by noon on that date.
6. Dean Runge announced that Provost Grahn is now UCA's point person for ADHE. Jonathan Glenn filled that role previously.
7. The locations of where UCA students working with Conway Public Schools will be placed is due to Dr. Jamie Alea in the College of Education in two weeks. The chairs were asked to send the information to the Dean's Office by September 6<sup>th</sup>.

8. Short-term study abroad was discussed. Topics included minimum enrollments, academic standards and ways to encourage more students to participate.
9. As part of the implementation of the approved UCA Strategic Plan, \$200,000 has been committed to bolster our Institutional Research operation and \$76,000 will be used to fund the full review of general education and to enroll UCA in the HLC Assessment Academy.
10. The recently passed law on performance funding and its impact on UCA and CNSM was discussed.
11. The chairs were encouraged to send their new faculty to the Winning Grants Workshop presented Dr. David Bauer September 1<sup>st</sup>.
12. Dean Runge has been selected to serve as the CoD representative on the UCA Budget Advisory Committee.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – August 29, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, August 29, 2011. All chairs were present.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 8-18-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Runge discussed the draft of items to be addressed in the HLC Monitoring Report. Deans Hattlestad and Lee, who are co-chairing the writing committee prepared this draft. The draft will be sent to the chairs. Dr. Rob Mauldin was nominated to serve on the committee charged to write the report. Dean Runge asked the chairs to review the draft and send any modifications to the Dean's office by Wednesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. Position advertising using composite ads was discussed. It was agreed that using composite ads last year was very successful in reaching a diverse audience. Dean Runge reminded the chairs to get their AA1s in to the Dean's office as soon as possible so that the composite ads can be assembled.
4. Dr. Addison addressed the council on the UTeach seed grant proposal that he is currently preparing. Presently, submissions from UA-Fayetteville, UALR, ASU and UCA are anticipated. Each proposal, if accepted, will be awarded \$20,000.00. Dr. Addison asked the chairs for specific data to help strengthen our proposal. All proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the ASTA Board.
5. The CNSM Advisory Board membership was discussed. Dean Runge met with Dr. Rollin Potter, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communications, on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Dean Potter provided some excellent advice for establishing a successful and sustainable advisory board. The chairs reviewed the list of potential members for the CNSM Advisory Board. A projected date for the first advisory board meeting was set for the first week of full classes in January 2012.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge gave a brief summary of the STEM Coalition Board Executive Committee Meeting that had attended the morning of the CoC meeting.
2. Dean Runge asked the chairs to send an email out to their faculty reminding them to send a notice to students when labs have been canceled. This is especially important if labs are not meeting the first week of classes or during any other short week during the semester.

3. Dean Runge asked the chairs to canvas their faculty for people interested in the vacant Director of the Arkansas Junior Academy of Science position. The chairs should send their recommendations to the Dean's Office by Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- No report.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Dr. Nolan Carter has resigned as Director of the Arkansas Junior Academy of Science. Dr. Mauldin will ask Dr. Carter to send out a description of the duties entailed of the position.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Department has become an Academic Alliance member of the National Center for Women & Information Technology. Dr. Yu Sun is the department representative.
- UCA's Computer Science Department has been selected by the working committee of NSF/TCPP Curriculum Initiative on Parallel and Distributed Computing as an early adopter. Among the 18 awardees worldwide this year, 12 are in the United States. Drs. Bernard Chen and Sinan Kockara are the PIs of the UCA proposal.
- Initial data indicates over a 20% enrollment increase of Computer Science majors this fall.

#### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that the Math Department awarded 15 graduate assistantships for fall 2011. There are 6 part-time students enrolled in at least 1 graduate course. Overall, there are 12 students pursuing MS degrees in applied mathematics and 9 students pursuing MA degrees in mathematics education.
- Ten concurrent high school mathematics teachers for the AY 2011-12 attended PD workshops held in the Department of Mathematics on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Drs. Clarence Burg and Ramesh Garimella worked with calculus teachers, Drs. Patrick Carmack and R.B. Lenin worked with statistics teachers. At a joint luncheon, organized by the UCA's Outreach and Community Engagement Office, Drs. Garimella and Watson briefed the teachers about the National Alliance Concurrent Enrollment Partnership guidelines and standards.
- As a part of the \$105,323 project from the ADHE (received by Drs. Ramesh and

Umadevi Garimella) titled, *Algebra I – Implementation of Common Core State Standards*, UCA offered two sets of workshops this summer. One was at the Nashville, AR School District from August 1-5, led by Dr. Jean McGehee and the other was on the UCA campus from July 25-29, led by Dr. Linda Griffith.

- Drs. Linda Griffith and Ramesh Garimella conducted workshops for Algebra II teachers in central Arkansas for an MSP grant project titled: *Algebra II – A Gateway to a Smart Future* (organized by Ms. Aimee Evans of the Arch Ford Educational Cooperative), from July 11-15 in the Department of Mathematics. The workshops focused on the new Common Core State Standards, and rigorous study of some advanced algebra and trigonometry concepts. This summer's special feature was a day-long workshop by Dr. Carl Lee of the University of Kentucky. He showed how Geogebra may be used to enhance high school students' understanding of various concepts of Algebra II and Trigonometry.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that UCA is now a member of the Physics Teachers Coalition Institution.
- Dr. Addison recently presented a workshop to the College of Fine Arts and Communications on writing SURF proposals. Workshops were held August 29<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup>.



# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – September 12, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, September 12, 2011. All chairs were present.

### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from 8-29-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Board Policy 338 (conferring degrees to students who attend professional school prior to graduating from UCA) was discussed and draft updates were suggested. Dean Runge will cover the proposed updates in his meeting with President Courtway September 13<sup>th</sup>.
3. Copies of the email from Tina Pilgreen, Research Compliance Coordinator in Sponsored Programs, concerning proposed changes to the IRB applications were distributed to the chairs. Changes to the Principal Investigator's Assurance Agreement were discussed and agreed upon. Suggested changes will be sent to Ms. Pilgreen.
4. Copies of Project Descriptions Worksheets: Guides for Researching Potential Grant makers, developed by Jennifer Boyett, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, were handed out to the council. Ms. Boyett has asked that the chairs complete a worksheet for each priority in their department so that she may be more informed about the funding needs of CNSM programs. The chairs should return the completed worksheets to the Dean's Office by September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

Dean Runge announced that he would discuss budget and fees with President Courtway at his meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Cash reported that 17 students and staff attended the David Bauer grant workshop held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Dr. Ben Cash was elected to the Board of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, Churchill, Manitoba, Canada.
- Faculty and students participated in Conway EcoFest held Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen graduate students, four undergraduate students and two alumni manned the booths.

- The Biology Department welcomes a new student worker, Marie Desrochers, to the biology office.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that last week the Chemistry Department conducted safety training sessions for Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants.
- The Chemistry Department website now has a new section dealing with safety issues.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that UCA alumnus, Terri Jordan, visited with the Computer Science Department on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jordan, who received a BS in Computer Science in 1985, is currently a vice president at Microsoft.
- The Computer Science Club met earlier this month with over 45 students participating.
- Computer Science faculty member, Dr. Victor Sheng won the Best Paper Award at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Industrial Conference on Data Mining in New York City, an international conference.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that through the high school concurrent enrollment program, the Department of Mathematics offers nine sections of Math 1390 with a total of 114 students, one section of Algebra and Trig with 15 students, eight sections of Calculus I with 49 students, and two sections of Elementary Stats with 10 students. A total of 188 students from ten high schools that include Academics Plus, Central High School, Conway High School, Central Arkansas Christian, Guy Perkins, Greenbrier, Oak Grove High School, Parkview, St. Joseph, and Vilonia High Schools are enrolled in these various concurrent credit mathematics courses for fall 2011.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that the EcoFest Race was a tremendous success again this year with a large turnout.
- Dr. Addison is presenting two SURF Workshops for Students this week.
- Dr. Addison reported that the UTeach planning grant proposal has been successfully submitted to ASTA.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – September 26, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, September 26, 2011. All chairs were present. Ms. Penny Hatfield and Ms. Leigh Ann DenHartog were guests.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Ms. Penny Hatfield, Senior Associate Director of Admissions, addressed the council about Bear Facts Days and Bear Fairs. She distributed copies of promotional booklets that are used by the admissions office in recruitment. Ms. Hatfield also handed out an agenda for 2011 – 2012 Bear Facts Days. The new software for admissions was discussed and the floor was open to questions. The effectiveness of Bear Facts Days on Saturdays as opposed to Fridays was discussed and yield data was requested by the group. Ms. Hatfield encouraged the participation of all registered student organizations in the Bear Fair and welcomed the departments to set up booths.
2. Ms. DenHartog gave a brief presentation about CNSM's recruitment activities. She supplied chairs with a copy of Fall 2011 CNSM Recruiting Events at various locations around the state. Ms. DenHartog will attend next week's CoC as well.
3. Minutes from the 9-12-11 CoC were approved as amended.
4. Copies of the email dated September 16, 2011 from Ms. Faith Hopkins with the new guidelines for inventory was given to the chairs. The guidelines were discussed. It was noted that retirement of surplus equipment would be easier with implementation of the new guidelines.
5. It was decided to search both within and outside of UCA for an individual to fill the vacant position of Director of the Arkansas Junior Academy. Former director, Dr. Nolan Carter, will notify the Academy so that other universities may be called upon to nominate a director. Our intent is that the Junior Academy to continue to be held on the UCA campus.
6. The possibility of hosting a Girls of Promise conference in 2013 was discussed. CNSM will work with Ms. Jan Davis, UCA Director of Planned Giving, to coordinate the event. Dean Runge expressed that this would be a valuable recruitment tool for our College and for UCA.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge announced that the EPIC Residential College has been given full approval by President Courtway. Start-up funding in the amount of

\$75,000 needs to be identified and \$25,000 per year for operations will need to be budgeted. Privated donors have been approached for financial assistance.

2. Dean Runge reported on the lunch meeting he and Dr. Hu attended on September 20th with Mr. Josh Smith, chief operating officer for PrivacyStar.
3. Dean Runge reminded the council that Congressman Tim Griffin would be on campus tomorrow, Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Dean Runge will make a presentation on the EPIC Residential College.
4. Dean Runge reminded the chairs to pay close attention to the information and requests for information that is coming out related to the HLC monitoring report that is being prepared. It is imperative that we do an exemplary job of including accurate data for this report.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- No report.

#### **Chemistry:**

- No report.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that he and Drs. Runge, Paruchuri and Sheng attended the presentation by Ray Scott, Director of Arkansas Health Information Technology, at the Clinton School in Little Rock on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that Dr. Jean McGehee conducted a 1-day workshop on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> for Algebra I teachers. The workshop was part of an ADHE grant project received by the UCA STEM Institute to implement the Common Core State Standards and was conducted on the UCA campus.
- On Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Ramesh Garimella conducted a 1-day trigonometry workshop for 16 Algebra II teachers on the UCA campus. The workshop was part of a 3-year MSP grant obtained by the Arch Ford Educational Cooperative.
- The Math Department held a retreat from noon to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions on program assessments. It is a fourth retreat in as many months. Fifteen faculty members participated.
- A paper coauthored by Dr. Patrick Carmack and his collaborators in Texas titled

*Hippocampal Dysfunction in Gulf War Veterans: Investigation with ASL Perfusion MR Imaging and Physostigmine Challenge* appeared in the Journal of Radiology this month.

**Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that the UTeach seed grant proposal has been funded. UCA's proposal is rated number one out of five submitted proposals. Drs. Addison, Tim Atkinson and Gary Bunn will attend a 2-day UTeach meeting at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

## COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

### Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – October 10, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, October 10, 2011. All chairs were present. Dr. Tim Atkinson, Director of Sponsored Programs, and Ms. Tina Pilgreen, Research and Compliance Coordinator, were guests.

#### Agenda Items:

1. Dr. Tim Atkinson and Ms. Tina Pilgreen addressed Responsible Conduct for Research (RCR) training. Dr. Atkinson stated that the reasons for the training are one (1), the federal government is requiring it, second (2), we expect our training to cover enough material to raise awareness of the current ethical issues surrounding scientific research and training, and third (3), it allows proposal writers to outline that UCA has implemented an RCR training program. The training is repeated every three years for each investigator. It was pointed out that NSF and NIH research accounts could be frozen if we do not meet the required training requirements. Since the training would preferably be one eight hour session, finding a date that would not necessitate faculty and involved students missing any classes is very important. The preliminary training can be done online and takes about forty-five minutes. PIs will be responsible for ensuring that their research students working on NSF/NIH funded projects are trained. The Tuesday before spring classes begin in January is being considered for the initial training.
2. Minutes from the 9-26-11 CoC were approved as amended.
3. Senior Lecturer guidelines were discussed and copies of the pages from the Faculty Handbook pertaining to lecturer advancement were handed out. Dean Runge asked the chairs to recommend faculty to serve on an ad hoc committee to write a college-level framework. Dr. Frederickson will facilitate the meetings. Once the college-level frameworks are written and approved through the appropriate processes, departments will need to detail their individual guidelines.
4. Dean Runge suggested that it would be beneficial for a chair or faculty member to accompany Leigh Ann DenHartog on student recruiting trips around Arkansas. Ms. DenHartog has the list of upcoming trips. Dean Runge will also participate in this recruiting, as his calendar allows.
5. The establishment of the Elementary Math and Science Specialist Degree Program, in collaboration with the College of Education, was discussed. Copies of the Advising Checklist developed by our colleagues in the CoE for the Elementary Math or Science Specialist Track were distributed. Dean Runge suggested that Dr. Donna Foss might coordinate the effort to complete the science and mathematics requirements for CNSM.

6. Dr Addison addressed the council concerning the recent UTeach meeting that he attended on Mt. Petit Jean. UCA's proposal will be submitted February 15, 2012. There are many details regarding licensure and NCATE requirements that need to be addressed at the State level, but the expectation is that the first UTeach students will start in Step I in Fall 2012. Dr. Addison needs a list of faculty that should have access to restricted data on the UTeach web site so that appropriate contributions to the proposal development can be made. The chairs should provide Dr. Addison with the list by October 21<sup>st</sup>. UTeach material was distributed to the chairs.

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that he and Dr. Frederickson will be attending the Tradelines 2011 Conference on Academic Science Facilities in Scottsdale, Arizona October 12<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.
2. Dean Runge reminded the chairs to help faculty with the development of assessment plans for new course proposals and curriculum changes. These assessment plans will evolve over time as we develop and implement our full program assessment plans for each of our degree programs.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- No report.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the Department of Chemistry approved curricular proposals prompted by Act 747 on October 4, 2011, for the following programs:
  1. BS in Chemistry, Standard Track, ACS-certified
  2. BS in Chemistry, Biochemistry Track, ACS-certified
  3. BS with major in Chemistry
  4. BS in Environmental Science, Chemistry Track
- The Chemistry Club presented chemical demonstrations at the Majors Fair on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Computer Science:**

- The Computer Science Department received a \$500 grant from the National Center for Women and IT to establish a female student organization.
- On behalf of ABET/CAC, Dr. Hu visited a university in Pennsylvania for its CS program accreditation.

**Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that the Math Department's short-term goal of equipping all classrooms with desktops, multimedia carts, document cameras, and all the latest mathematical software is now a reality.
- At its last meeting, the Undergraduate Council approved the Discrete Math II course proposal.
- A paper titled *Adaptive Buffering Scheme to Reduce Packet Loss on Densely Connected WSN with Mobile Sink*, coauthored by Dr. R.B. Lenin (with Z. Shakir and K. Yoshigoe of UALR) has been accepted for presentation at the 2012 IEEE's Consumer Communication and Networking Conference. More details about this conference can be found at <http://www.ieee-ccnc.org/>.
- Dr. Patrick Carmack's paper titled *Generalized Correlated Cross-Validation* was accepted, pending revision, in the Journal of Nonparametric Statics.

**Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that UCA hosted the mid-south chapter of the Acoustical Society of America October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.



# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – October 17, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, October 17, 2011. All chairs were present.

### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from 10-17-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Runge opened the discussion concerning the recent email from Provost Grahn regarding budget requests. The definition of white board funds (unexpended plant funds) was explained. Dean Runge reminded CoC members to keep EPIC, STEM and UTeach in mind while preparing their requests. A deadline of November 1st was set for delivering the requests to the Provost's Office, with requests due to the Dean's Office on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. Copies of the retention report prepared by Melissa Goff, Director of Institutional Research, were distributed and discussed. Retention data for individual programs will be forthcoming and at that time Ms. Goff will be invited to a CoC meeting to further discuss the data.
4. Dr. Addison gave a report on Bear Facts Day (Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>).
5. Dean Runge and Dr. Frederickson attended the Tradelines Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on October 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the trip was the design of academic science facilities. The trip was very productive, with information on flexible designs presented. Contacts with national consultants for our project were also established.

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Runge briefly discussed the proposed academic calendar.

### Chairs Reports:

#### Biology:

- Dr. Cash reported that Dr. Sally Entrekin is having a paper titled, *Rapid Expansion of Natural Gas Development Poses a Threat to Surface Waters*, published in the *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.
- The Biology Department faculty, staff and students enjoyed their fall picnic Friday afternoon, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Lake Beaverfork.

### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> in celebration of National Chemistry Week, the Chemistry Club gave away free cupcakes in a periodic table format, with each cupcake having an elemental symbol. To get a free cupcake, each person had to state the name of the element.
- Also in celebration of National Chemistry Week, the Chemistry Club hosted Dr. Kevin Raney from the UAMS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department for a seminar during X-period on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Mauldin distributed copies of the Chemistry Department's Smart Board assessment survey. All departments should use these same questions on their evaluation of the learning technology. Dr. Mauldin volunteered to collect and analyze the data for the report to the funding agency.

### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that the Fourth Annual pyArkansas Conference, the annual one-day conference organized by the Arkansas Python Users Group, would be held Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> on the UCA campus. Presently, more than 50 people have registered for the conference.
- The Computer Science Department has submitted a proposal to the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) on gender diversity.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported the Math Department has offered graduate teaching assistantships to two new MS students in applied mathematics starting spring 2012.
- Dr. Patrick Carmack and Dr. R.B. Lenin are providing consultation to a project undertaken by Connect Arkansas.
- Jacob Fenske, a math/physics major and Adam McMoran, math/physics major were hired for two of the 3 intern positions available for this fall at Tokusen.
- Two faculty members recently participated in recruitment activities: Dr. Fred Hickling at Little Rock School District and Dr. Charles Watson at Pulaski Tech.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that UCA alumnus, Mr. Ralph Carruth, who is director of engineering at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, presented a seminar to the Physics Department Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Physics Department faculty and staff enjoyed their annual fall picnic Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at Woolly Hollow State Park.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – October 24, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, October 24, 2011. All chairs were present.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from 10-17-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Runge asked Dr. Frederickson, who serves on the UCA Scholarship Committee, to address the council about scholarships. Dr. Frederickson discussed ideas related to the initial amount of the scholarship to the ability to retain scholarships. It was agreed that lowering the initial scholarship amount would put us at a competitive disadvantage, but that retention might improve if there were a graduated loss of scholarships (e.g. lose 50% if GPA requirement is not met the first year; potential to regain full scholarship after second year OR lose the remainder of the scholarship if GPA remains low). Drs. Frederickson and Runge will continue this conversation with the appropriate parties on campus.
3. Copies of the draft of the Action Steps (from Dr. Hattlestad, Co-Chair of the HLC Monitoring Report Team) for FY2012 were handed out to the chairs. Dean Runge asked the chairs to have their comments to him by Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Dean Runge's comments, representing CNSM, are due Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that the budget requests are due to the Dean's Office October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Chairs Reports:**

##### **Biology:**

- Dr. Cash reported that Dr. David Dussourd attended the P3 Managers Meeting at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Chemistry:**

- No report.

##### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that sixty-six people from academia, industry and government agencies participated in the Fourth Annual PyArkansas Conference on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. UCA's Computer Department hosted the event. Dr. Bernard Chen

gave a three-hour introduction to python with over thirty people attending. Mr. Michael Nooner and Ms. Karen Thessing provided their professional assistance to the conference.

### **Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that Dr. Weijiu Liu authored a new textbook titled Introduction to Modeling Biological Cellular Control Systems. The book is being published by the Springer in its Modeling, Simulations and Applications Series and is scheduled for release on January 13, 2012. This book contains a description of the most commonly used ODE models in the study of biochemical processes and a chapter containing the classical models of ion pumps and channels. This is the second book published by Dr. Liu in the last three years.
- Dr. Danny Arrigo received an invitation from the Department of Mathematics at Tennessee Tech University to review their undergraduate programs next spring.
- This week, Dr. Linda Griffith is presenting a paper at the NCTM Regional Conference in St. Louis and Dr. Donna Foss is presenting a paper at the Rock Mountain Education Research Association meeting in Greenburg, Texas.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that he, Dr. Rahul Mehta and Dr. Azida Walker attended the Arkansas INBRE Conference accompanied by students, John Lahmann, Nick Martinez, Nirav Patel and Kristopher Watson. The students each presented posters. The poster presented by Mr. Patel and Mr. Watson was the first place winner in the physics poster competition.
- Dr. William Slaton visited the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas over Fall Break. Dr. Slaton returned with equipment on loan to enhance research. The borrowed equipment includes impedance tubes, microphones and a spectrum analyzer.

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – October 31, 2011

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, October 31, 2011. All chairs were present.

### Agenda Items:

1. Minutes of the 10-24-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Budget requests were discussed. The new form for budget requests was introduced to the council. This new form and the associated budgeting process represent the initiation of a strategic budgeting process at UCA, with projected needs being listed for the next five years. Dean Runge asked Dr. Frederickson to consolidate all requests from the chairs so that they can be ranked prior to submitting to the Provost Office on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This procedure will be repeated during the spring 2012 semester for the following fiscal year.

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Runge reported on his meeting with Ronnie Williams and others associated with the planning for Greek Village. The Nature Reserve is on the University Master Plan and Greek Village will not violate the boundaries of the Reserve.
2. The October 29<sup>th</sup> Bear Facts Day was discussed. It was noted that in the "Area of Interest" on the online registration form several CNSM degree programs and tracks were omitted. We will request that Admissions make the appropriate corrections.

### Chairs Reports:

#### Biology:

- Dr. Cash reported that the Biology Department would host an EPSCoR Center for Plant-Powdered Production (P3) meeting Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Representatives from the Biology Department will have the opportunity to learn more about the potential for sharing the ASU Field Station at the Buffalo River on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Chemistry:

- No report.

#### Computer Science:

- Dr. Hu reported that the Computer Science Department is in the process of

selecting a female student as recipient of the Arkansas Academy of Computing Scholarship.

- Dr. Hu participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony of LISA Academy new high school building. He reported on their building project and on the the STEM-centered curriculum at this school. We will add the LISA Academy to our list of schools for targeted recruiting by CNSM.

**Math:**

- No report.

**Physics:**

- No report.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – November 14, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, November 14, 2011. All chairs were present.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 10-31-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Runge opened a discussion regarding the relationship between tenure and promotion to associate professor. Dean Runge met with CNSM Senators, Drs. Charles Watson, George Bratton, Ben Rowley and CNSM representative on the Faculty Handbook Committee, Dr. K.C. Larson, last week to discuss the problems and challenges when tenure and promotion are decoupled as they currently are at UCA. Dr. George Bratton offered to take the matter before the faculty senate. The council of chairs discussed the pros and cons of coupling the two decisions.
3. Copies of an email promoting Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) were distributed. The CoC members discussed the need to build leadership from within the faculty and also the need to be mindful of issues such as gender diversity when mentoring leaders within the college.
4. Dean Runge opened a discussion regarding moving the two days of fall break from October to the week of Thanksgiving on the academic calendar. This would allow a full week off for students during the Thanksgiving holiday. The primary purpose of this change would be to give an additional full week of classes so that laboratory instruction would not be disrupted. Our current academic calendar (Fall 2011) includes five truncated weeks. The proposed calendar would reduce that to four truncated weeks. The chairs were asked to poll their departments on the matter.
5. Copies of the drafts of Action Steps Linked to the UCA Strategic Plan for 2012 and Action Steps Linked to the UCA Strategic Plan for 2013 were handed out. Dean Runge asked the council to send feedback on the drafts to the Dean's Office by Wednesday of this week so that it may be discussed at the 11-5 CoC.
6. The condensed UCA mission statement (tagline) and a potential CNSM slogan were discussed. Dean Runge encouraged the chairs to send comments and ideas on these topics to Dr. Frederickson.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that Lt. Thom Miller, United States Navy Pediatrician and UCA/UAMS graduate, would be addressing an audience about the opportunities for our students within the Navy, at X-period, November 15<sup>th</sup> in

LSC 100. Lunch will be provided. The chairs were urged to get the word out to their departments.

2. The Bear Facts Days held on Saturdays have been very effective. Students seemed to be more engaged than they have been on past Friday events and the opportunity to speak with their parents has been very productive.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Cash reported that Drs. Reid and Ginny Adams, along with several Biology students, recently attended the Southeastern Fisheries Society Meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee. UCA biology student, Loren Stearman won the \$150 first place award for student presentations, beating out two post-doctoral students. Dr. Ginny Adams was elected as chair-elect of the council. She will serve a two-year term as chair-elect and a two-year term as chair of the society.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that Dr. Karen Steelman has been invited to a Rock Art Methods mini-conference in late November. The meeting is co-sponsored by the US National Foundation (NSF) and the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). Organized by Dr. Meg Conkey (University of California at Berkeley), this meeting is an opportunity for American and French researchers to interact and learn from each other. Only six researchers from each country were invited. The conference will be held near Comstock, Texas on the Shumla School campus, a nonprofit archaeological research and education center. The Lower Pecos River region of southwest Texas has some of the most spectacular rock art sites in the world. The conference will include presentations, discussions, and visits to local rock art sites. A reciprocal conference in the French Midi-Pyrenees at the Parc de la Prehistoire is planned for the future.

#### **Computer Science:**

- No report.

#### **Math:**

- UCA mathematics faculty members, Drs. Linda Griffin and Jean McGehee conducted professional development workshops for eighteen Algebra I teachers from central Arkansas on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> on the UCA campus. The workshops are part of a series being conducted this year by Drs. Griffin and McGehee to help implement the Common State Standards. The workshop was a part of a \$105,312 funded project from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education received by Dr. Umadevi Garimella, Director of UCA STEM Institute, and Dr. Ramesh Garimella, Chair of the Department of Mathematics.



- Dr. Xinping Li, a visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics, presented a paper titled *An Anisotropic Mesh Adaptation Method for the Finite Element Solution of Heterogeneous Anisotropic Diffusion Problems* at the Fall 2011 Finite Element Circus at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point campus on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. R.B. Lenin, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, presented a paper titled *Modeling and Simulation of Patient Flows in the Department of OB/GYN at UAMS* at the 2011 Predictive Analytics with Simulation Conference held in Orlando, Florida from October 30 – November 3, 2011. This project is part of an effort at UAMS to improve efficiency and patient flow in the outpatient clinics. The paper was coauthored with Dr. Hari Easwaran of UAMS.

### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that on November 6<sup>th</sup> members of the Student Physics Society (SPS) and American Chemistry Society (ACS) took a guided hike lead by Dr. Debra Burris at Petit Jean State Park. Dr. Burris and the students hiked the 7 Hollows Trail, which is 4.5 mile loop. Features along the trail included the natural rock arch, which the students spent a good deal of time exploring sandstone “turtle rocks” and rock shelters that had evidence of Native American habitation. A spring hike is planned.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – December 5, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, December 5, 2011. All chairs were present except for Dr. Garimella. Dr. Frederickson was not in attendance. Dr. Clarence Burg represented the Math Department.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 11-14-11 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dean Runge opened a discussion about the HLC Action Plans. Several of the proposed initiatives on the draft were examined closely. Dean Runge asked the chairs to send any ideas and/or amendments to the Dean's Office by the end of the day Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The action plan drafts will continue to be received until we have a full set of 5-year plans.
3. Dean Runge outlined the Tabletop Natural Disaster Exercise that both he and Dr. Frederickson attended at Brewer-Hegeman on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Dean Runge stressed that CNSM must develop a disaster plan for each of its facilities by the end of January. Two particular points were emphasized. First, we must have redundancy in the building administration. Two or possibly three people should have a full working knowledge of the building operations. Second, a student notification system must be adopted. Dean Runge suggested that on the first day of classes each semester, instructors might briefly discuss building safe zones and evacuation routes.
4. The chairs were asked to nominate one or two faculty members for service on a committee to write the proposal for the EPIC minor. The names are due to the Dean's Office by Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.
5. A review of assessment plans/HLC writing will be addressed at the CNSM mid-year retreat in January.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge reminded the council that Dr. Allison Wallace from the Honors College would be a guest at next week's CoC. She will be discussing Prestigious Fellowship opportunities for our students.
2. Dean Runge asked the chairs to send one or two names of their faculty to be considered for service on a committee to develop a CNSM policy regarding incentive pay for external grants. The goal is to design a policy that is more equitable and still consistent with the university policy.

3. The chairs were reminded that Program Educational Objectives for each degree program should be ready for presentation and discussion in early January.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Cash reported that Dr. David Dussourd gave an invited talk, titled *For Love of Insect and Plants: Serendipitous Discoveries from Nature*, at the Entomological Society of America Meeting in Reno, Nevada, November 12 – 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that on November 29<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Chemistry approved revised program educational outcomes and associated student learner outcomes for the BS degree in Chemistry.

#### **Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported that on December 1<sup>st</sup> the Computer Science Department hosted an invited seminar titled, *Energy Attack on Server Systems*, delivered by Dr. Mengjin Xie, a Computer Science faculty member at UALR.
- The Computer Science faculty will hold their annual assessment workshop on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Computer Science faculty members, Bernard Chen, Sinan Kockara, Vamsi Paruchuri, Yu Sun and Paul Young participated in the NSF workshop on grant writing at UALR on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Math:**

- No report.

#### **Physics:**

- Dr. Addison reported that Drs. Mehta and Mason attended the NSF Workshop at UALR today.
- Drs. Mehta, Azida Walker and Physics major, Kristopher Watson attended the BioNanoTox Conference on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Walker chaired a technical session at the meeting and is refereeing papers for publication in the conference proceedings.

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – December 12, 2011**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, December 12, 2011. All chairs were present. Drs. Allison Wallace, Carolyn Williams, Uma Garimella and Ms. Leigh Ann DenHartog were guests.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Dr. Allison Wallace from the Honors College addressed the council promoting the Prestigious Fellowships and Grants Program. Dr. Wallace distributed material outlining fellowship and grant opportunities. A website is currently being developed and the possibility of an office location where students and faculty can go to find out more about available options is being considered.
2. Dr. Carolyn Williams from the College of Education and Dr. Uma Garimella, STEM Institute Director, spoke to the group concerning a 5-year grant for students who wish to teach math and science. The grant would place these students in Arkansas urban schools. Dr. Williams is interested in students who have already graduated with degrees in the sciences. An abstract for the grant was handed out and the chairs were asked to help name interested students. Dr. Uma Garimella and the STEM Institute will coordinate the placements. Also, a sign-up sheet for CNSM chairs to serve on the Partnership for Transition Grant Planning and Advisory Team was passed out.
3. Leigh Ann DenHartog presented some ideas for brightening up the CNSM website while keeping it "user friendly." She asked the chairs for input. Ms. DenHartog also discussed ways to make our brochures more innovative and current. She is exploring ideas and means to make CNSM information accessible and interesting for all interested parties.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Runge announced that training requirements for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) must be completed by all administrators from the Chair level up by June 30, 2012. Copies of a draft of the requirements, which was presented to the Council of Deans, were handed out to the chairs. Dean Runge stressed that compliance is critical for FEMA eligibility for UCA.
2. Dean Runge announced that Dr. John Parrick has been named Interim Director of International Studies.
3. ADHE is allowing some flexibility in the timeline for when the 120-hr, 8-semester degree plans are to be submitted.
4. Dean Runge reminded the chairs that the EAR report will be collected and assembled by Leigh Ann DenHartog. This report is due to the Provost by

January 15, 2012.

**Chairs Reports:**

**Math:**

- Dr. Garimella reported that he, Dr. Linda Griffith and Dr. Jean McGehee conducted a 2-day workshop for 18 Algebra II teachers on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. This final set of workshops was part of a 3-year MSP grant project titled: Algebra II – A Gateway to a Smart Future. Ms. Aimee Evans of the Arch Ford Educational Cooperative is PI of this ADHE grant.
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**Chemistry:**

- No report.

**Computer Science:**

- Dr. Hu reported on the successful Computer Science Advisory Board meeting that took place Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Dean Runge was in attendance.

**Biology:**

- No report.

**Physics:**

- No report.