

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - March 6, 2017

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, February 6, 2017. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams (via phone), Jeff Allender, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, and Brent Hill. Guest: Aimee Poynter - CNSM Development Officer.

Agenda Items:

- Minutes from February 6, 2017 approved with minor adjustments.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on the current CNSM dress code policy and possible changes in the university policy in Fall 2017.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on CNSM lab fees. All CNSM lab courses should have a lab fee and asks that justifications be sent for any courses that need to have a lab fee added.
- Dean Addison announced that the Dean's office would cover the cost of students attending only the Poster Session of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences. Posters should be emailed to John Black for printing by April 3rd with the subject line: AAS Meeting. PDF format is preferable and do not include Google slides as they do not resize well.
- Dean Addison updated council on position requests. The Provost's Office has not yet reviewed our 1-year requests and permanent line requests have been submitted. There were 19 position requests, 4 were carry-over, and 3 were replacements.
- Dean Addison ask that Chairs follow guidelines and use the most up to date forms when submitting Student Research Fund requests. He asks that Chairs make sure the proposals are ready before they leave the department office.
- A handout of the Faculty Senate Constitutional Changes was distributed and Chairs were asked to encourage their faculty to vote. Discussion followed.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison asked chairs to have faculty update their faculty web pages and create Google Scholar Profiles, Researcher ID's, or ORCID ID's. Current and prospective students use the Internet to research schools, faculty, and opportunities and it is important that our web presence is up to date. Discussion followed.
- Ginny Adams announced that the Energy Symposium will be on March 7th in the Student Center from 5-7pm.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Sally Entrekin submitted a State Wildlife Grant.
- Reid and Ginny Adams submitted a State Wildlife Grant.
- Mindy Farris received an Arkansas INBRE Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Lei Yang had the following paper published over the past 6 months:
 - Synthesis and Characterization of Copper Complexes with Cu₂Cu₂, Cu_{1.5}Cu_{1.5} and Cu₁Cu₁ Core Structures Supported by a Flexible Dipyriddyamide Ligand. Ethan P. McMoran, Douglas R. Powell, Felio Perez, Gerard T. Rowe, Lei Yang, *Inorg. Chem.*, **2016**, 55 (21), pp 11462-11472.
- Nathan Meredith reviewed the following paper for *Micromachines*:
 - Chowdury, M.A.; Walji, N.; Mahmud, A.; MacDonald D.B. Paper-based microfluidic device with a gold nanosensor to detect arsenic contamination of groundwater in Bangladesh. *Micromachines*, **2017**, accepted.
- We are thinking about revamping the Posters at the Capitol event: 11:30-1:30pm period, overlaps with lunch hours. Omit the luncheon.
- Lei Yang organized the 29th Mid-South Inorganic Chemists Association meeting at UCA on March 4, 2017. Inorganic chemists from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri attended and shared their latest research results.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Bernard's workshop proposal, "Data Mining in Transportation Security", has been accepted to the 13th International Conference on Data Mining (DMIN '17). The workshop will be co-chaired by Bernard and two of his collaborators from the University of Alabama.
- Tansel submitted an NIH RO1 proposal with RPI and Baylor University Medical Center about the design, development, and validation of a Virtual Colorectal Surgical Trainer. If funded, the UCA portion will be \$170,397.
- Yu Sun received a Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Intelligent Automation and Robotics (ICIAR 2016). This work was sponsored by Yu's NASA grant and the first three authors of the paper are UCA computer science students.
- Emre Celebi's paper has been accepted to the 8th Iberian Conference on Pattern Recognition and Image Analysis (IbPRIA 2017). The first author of the paper, a female PhD student from Portugal, will present the paper at the conference.

- Emre Celebi attended the 2017 American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting in Orlando during the past weekend.
- All tenure-track/tenured computer science faculty now have an academic webpage and following profiles: Google Scholar, ResearcherID, and ResearchGate.

Geography

Dr. Jeff Allender reported:

- Michael Yoder presented a paper at the Arkansas Political Science Association meeting on *Cargo Transport Infrastructure in the Ft. Smith Metro Area*. U.S. Representative, Steve Womack asked for a copy of the paper.
- Will Flatley helped with the prescribed burn at the Jewel Moore Nature Reserve this past Sunday.
- Jeff Allender and Steve O'Connell will have a booth at the EAST Conference in Hot Springs on March 15-16, 2017.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- The Math Department has filled two tenure track positions, one in Math Ed and one for Applied Math. Dr. Todd Abel has accepted the Math Ed position whereas Mr. Yinlin Dong (expected to finish his PhD in Math from UT Arlington this May) has accepted the Applied Math position. Negotiations are on-going with a potential candidate to fill a second Math Ed tenure-track position.
- The ACTM Regional Mathematics Contest was held on campus on March 4 with 110 students from central Arkansas participating. Awards were given at the end of the contest. The ACTM State Mathematics Contest will be held on Saturday, April 22.
- Ramesh Garimella will preside over the upcoming 2017 OK-AR Sectional Meeting of MAA to be held on the University of Oklahoma campus in Norman on March 7-8, 2017.
- The Department of Mathematics' self-study is being conducted for both MS and BS programs. External reviewers will be on campus during the third week of April.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Drs. Frederickson, Mehta, Salton, Menon, and Walker along with 8 students; Brandon Miller, Zachary Brawley, Russell Jeffery, Nicholas Scoles, Hayley Heacox, Jordan Burajas, Sidney Freyaldenhoven, and Jeffery Anderson, will attend the APS March meeting in New Orleans, LA March 13-16.
- Dr. Azida Walker organized a Women in Stem day funded by a grant from the UCA foundation. The event brought young women from local high schools to UCA for the day. These students interacted with guest speakers and a panel discussion at lunch. The keynote speaker was Sethanne Howard retired Chief of the Nautical Almanac Office at the US Naval Observatory in Washington, DC.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- STEM Leadership for Girls: This was targeted only to Conway High School girls. We have 60 students and it was very well received.
- We are hosting another STEM Leadership for Girls on March 8 in Brewer Hegeman – we have 165 students from several school districts. Tim Griffin, a Walmart representative, and several local industries are coming to present. We would like for female faculty to stop by anytime to see what is being done.
- Conferences:
 - Attended First State STEM meeting:
 - AdvancED Arkansas, Arkansas STEM Coalition, and the Arkansas Out of School Network welcomes you to our first co-sponsored STEM Summit in Arkansas. Summit sessions will focus and target effective STEM practices and strategies and engaging student learners in STEM education. The Summit is designed for all community and business entities, higher education, pre-K-12 public and non-public institutions, out-of-school time program professionals and informal STEM educators, school board members, superintendents, central office personnel, principals and teachers.
 - Attended BSCS meeting – on-line STEM course for high school teachers.
 - AACIA Conference featuring Mike Mattos – Simplifying RTI (to help with understanding what teachers need for implementing a high fidelity RTI program in math).
 - Collaboration with College of Education:
 - We had 15 students that came to our STEM Institute and our Science specialist taught the class.
 - STEMteach faculty are bringing students and teaching one class in Main to become familiarized with our resources.
 - PD and class support:
 - Conway Middle School – Provided professional development at request of district.
 - Statewide Instructional development PD Elementary (40 teachers), Middle School (60 teachers) PD developed in February.
 - We visited and delivered all materials purchased through grants to 9 districts – Little Rock, Pulaski County, Little Rock Private, Little Rock Charter, Avilla, Morrilton, Mayflower, Maumelle, and Clinton).
 - Increased our support to schools through one-on-one assistance.

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- She is meeting with Wilber Owen tomorrow. There is a scholarship endowment reception in his honor on April 12th.
- She is having lunch with Herman and Betty Ellis on Wednesday.
- She is traveling to Arkadelphia on Thursday and Dallas in April. Please let her know of any alumni in the area so she can make visits while she is in town.