

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - August 28, 2017

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, August 28, 2017. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill and Melissa Kelley for Pat Desrochers. Guests: Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer, and Angela Barlow, Dean of Graduate School and Director of Sponsored Programs.

Agenda Items:

- Minutes from June 12, 2017 meeting approved with minor revisions.
- Ginny Adams reminded Chairs to watch costs and provide details such as conference fees, hotel, meals, and mileage when submitting travel requests and to remind faculty that all travel must be approved prior to the event.
- Ginny Adams asked Chairs to schedule the first level of active shooter training for their departments as the second level of training will take place soon and the Conway Corporation Center for Sciences building is being considered for the first level two training session.
- Dean Addison announced that the Governor's office plans on funding programs for UCA to host a cyber range making UCA the only university with a Tier 1 Cyber Range. This will be a collaborative effort between Computer Science, Management Information Systems, and Liberal Arts.
- Dean Addison asked Chairs to sign up and let Berdie Eubank know which recruiting events they will be attending.
- Dean Addison reminded Chairs to send in their "Moonshot Projects." It is important that we continue to develop goals that everyone will buy into so we can continue to grow as a College.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison handed out copies of an article on harassment in academia and asked Chairs to read and share it with their faculty.
 - Burke, K. L. (2017). Harassment in Science. *American Scientist*, 105, 262-264. Retrieved from www.americanscientist.org.
- Dr. Barlow fielded questions regarding graduate student stipends, continuous enrollment, and information sharing between the registrar and the graduate office. Dr. Barlow stated that she is reviewing current policies and will be working with the Dean's to develop new ones but it will be a long-term process.
- Dean Addison informed Chairs that a team of three CIO's from other universities will be coming to UCA to review our IT systems. He asked that any IT issues be sent to him so he could address them with this group.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- The Biology ten-year review is complete.
- Reid Adams published a paper.
- Brent Hill published a paper.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- No Report

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- The BS program in Computer Engineering officially started this Fall. We have recently hired a new faculty, Olcay Kursun, for this program.
- Chenyi Hu attended the 2017 ABET Annual July Commission meeting in Baltimore. He is serving his second term as a commissioner of the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission in 2017-2018.
- Karen Thessing attended a Concurrent Credit Course workshop for CSCI 1300 (Intro to Computing) in July.
- Mahmut Karakaya received a Visiting Faculty Program grant (\$15K) from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He visited ORNL for 10 weeks during the summer.
- Bernard Chen presented two papers at the 13th IEEE International Conference on Natural Computation, Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery (Guilin, China) in July:
 - B. Chen, C Tawiah, J. Palmer, and R. Erol, Multi-Class Wine Grades Predicitons with Hierarchical Support Vector Machines (3 of the authors are Masters students).
 - B. Chen, K. H. Buck, C. Lawrence, C. Moore, J. Yeatts, and T. Atkinson, Granular Computing in Wineinformatics (2 of the authors are Masters students and 2 are undergraduate students).
- Vamsi Paruchuri and Bernard Chen served as instructors in the Cyber Discovery 2.0 Camp.
- Vamsi Paruchuri served as a Program Committee Co-Chair in the 20th International Conference on Network-Based Information Systems (Ryerson University, Canada) in August.
- Mark Doderer taught basic programming to middle/high school students for two weeks during the 2017 Math & Science Summer Programs sponsored by the Department of Mathematics and the STEM Institute.
- Emre Celebi attended the 2nd Ozark Biomedical Initiative Research Symposium (Rolla, MO) in August.
- Emre Celebi, Mahmut Karakaya, Sinan Kockara, and Olcay Kursun jointly submitted a grant proposal (\$319K) to the NSF REU program.

Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- Geography had two MGIS graduates, one GIS certificate, one MSCED graduate, and one Geography bachelor's graduate at commencement this summer.
- For the second year in a row, Dr. Matthew Connelly participated in summer field research in Jamaica. This work examines several themes related to his existing research, including water quality and stream morphology in a rural community and geomorphic beach surveys and erosion monitoring in a tourism community. He has also developed a pilot study investigating impacts of mountain bike trail use on water quality in Lake Maumelle watershed. The pilot study, to be conducted this fall, and subsequent studies that are currently proposed, are part of a partnership Matt has cultivated with Central Arkansas Water. His pilot study includes funds for two student research positions, one filled with a Geography major, the other with an Environmental Study major.
- Along with collaborators on recent projects, Dr. William Flatley organized and presented an early-August online webinar on fire management regimes and land use planning on federal land. The one-day session was targeted towards land managers for federal agencies and included data from Will's prior work in northern Arizona. Impacts of different prescribed burn rotations on native and non-native species in the context of climate change were the primary focus.
- Through the Arkansas Geographic Alliance, Drs. Jeff Allender and Stephen O'Connell were part of a team of educators that put on the second three-day summer workshop for geography educators. About 35-40 teachers from across Arkansas participated in curriculum building sessions, technology demonstrations using ArcGIS, and round-table discussions.
- Along with a redesign of the department website (in progress), Dr. Stephen O'Connell developed an interactive map of department alumni. The map is maintained with ArcGIS Online and allows visitors to add their location and a short narrative about their job or how they use Geography in their current work. Only a handful of alumni have added content, but he hopes to add to the participants over the course of the semester.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No Report

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Carl Frederickson gave a presentation at the 2017 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition. He also published in the proceedings, "Introducing Coding in Freshman Physics Laboratories using Arduinos."
- Andrew Mason attended the 2017 Summer Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers and presented, "Do Students' Learning Orientations Have External Effect on Implementation Success?"
- William Slaton and Russell Jefferey traveled to Kingdom City, MO to participate in a balloonsat launch on Monday, August 21st, during the lunar eclipse. This was part of a project funded by the

Arkansas Space Grant Consortium. Along with the launch in Kingdom City, balloonsat loads built by Russell and Dr. Slaton over the summer were launched at 5 other sites across the country.

- Scott Austin appeared on the morning news broadcast for Channel 7 in Little Rock on Monday, August 21st. He appeared with Christina Munoz to talk about the solar eclipse.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No Report

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- We had a successful event at Night Under the Stars on August 21, 2017 at the Griffin Planetarium. We had over 175 in attendance. Several of those were first time visitors to the planetarium.