

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - October 2, 2017

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, October 2, 2017. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill. Guests: Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer.

Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from August 28, 2017 meeting approved with minor revisions.
2. Dean Addison let Chairs know that the CNSM Zero Based Budget training session was scheduled for October 16th in McCastlain 025B from 1-3pm. Chairs will have two weeks to enter budget after training and need to show where monies are being spent, i.e. travel, visiting positions, etc. This process will help in developing adequate budgets for operations through a reallocation of existing funds.
3. Ginny Adams reported on the AP Score meeting she attended and will send out an electronic copy of the data she received. Discussion followed on the statewide standard for acceptable scores and the need to have strong representatives from the departments at these meetings.
4. Dean Addison reported that the Governor's announcement regarding the new Cyber Range at UCA would be at the Capitol on Wednesday at 2pm. The Governor, Houston Davis, Courtney Pledger – AETN Executive Director, and Stephen Addison are the speakers. AETN will help develop educational content and disseminate information. The Cyber Range will be housed in the Data Center in Burdick.
5. Dean Addison attended the Engineering Deans meeting in Fayetteville on September 26 and 27th. The next meeting will be held at UCA in the spring.
6. Dean Addison asked Chairs to send in ideas for recruiting and retention initiatives.
7. Aimee Poynter reminded chairs that the Homecoming Open House is October 28th from 11-1 in the lobby of the Conway Corporation Center for Sciences. She asks that Chairs please have faculty and staff RSVP so we can get a head count for food.

Other Items/Announcements

- The major's fair is tomorrow in the Student Center Ballroom.
- The STEM Career Fair is next Wednesday. Please announce to students and encourage them to attend.
- Diversity Plans need to be sent to Ginny Adams.
- The IST Peer Review report is in, President Davis will review and report back to constituents.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- No Report.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Tori Dunlap earned a 2.5-year AR INBRE award to support her work on calcium binding proteins. Title: "Investigating the effects of PEP-19 on Calmodulin binding to target proteins."
- Our student ACS group was again recognized as an outstanding chapter by the American Chemical Society, keeping them in the top 10% of chapters nationwide. This is their 5th such honor in the past 6 years.
- Our student ACS was also honored by the American Chemical Society with their second straight Green Chemistry Award, recognizing their efforts to communicate and promote environmentally sustainable chemical best practices. The group will be presenting some of their award winning activities at the National ACS meeting in New Orleans in March 2018.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- The BS program in Cyber Security has just been submitted. We are hoping to start this program in Fall 2018.
- Tansel Halic submitted a grant proposal entitled, "A Virtual Rigid Bronchoscopy Simulator (ViRBroS) for Treatment of Central Airway Obstructions," to the NIH. This project is in collaboration with the Harvard Medical School and the UCA portion is \$261K.
- Tansel Halic submitted a grant proposal entitled, "Development and Validation of a Virtual Colorectal Surgical Trainer (VCoST)," to the NIH. This project is in collaboration with the Baylor Scott & White Medical Center and the UCA portion is \$170K.
- Emre Celebi attended the 19th International Conference on Image Analysis and Processing (ICIAP 2017) in Catania, Italy, in which he served as an Area Chair. He then visited the Department of Signal Processing and Communications at the University of Seville, Spain, where he gave two colloquium talks.
- Emre Celebi, Sinan Kockara, Matthew Connolly, Janet Nakarmi, and Tamara Haselkorn received an NSF Major Research Instrumentation grant with their project, "Acquisition of a High-Performance Computing System for University of Central Arkansas." (105K)
- Emre Celebi has recently launched a book series with Springer, world's largest academic book publisher, entitled, "Unsupervised and Semi-Supervised Learning." Currently, four books are due to be published in the series.

Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- Will Flatley has reached an agreement with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to get funding in the amount of \$13,000 for a fire history project in an ANHC-owned natural area in Northwest Arkansas. The project will reconstruct historical fire regimes with the intent of using the information to help direct controlled burns and the restoration of shortleaf pine woodlands.
- Steve O'Connell, in partnership with the Arkansas Geographic Alliance, has a commitment from GIS company ESRI to provide \$1,000 in funding for awards in the third annual ArcGIS Online Mapping Competition. The contest is open to Arkansas students in 4th-12th grades and encourages the use of geospatial technologies. Last year, a student from Springdale won the national Middle School level competition for her project documenting the development of Monte Ne.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Two weeks ago Dr. Garimella along with the Assessment Committee met with Dr. Brandon Combs to discuss the assessment of all programs in the department.
- Last Friday afternoon the department held a retreat to discuss the CAEP Report and program assessments.
- Nine math students in our STEMteach tracks enrolled in Apprentice Teaching and Seminar for Spring 2018.
- For the 2017-18 AY, the department has 19 full-time graduate students, out of which 15 are on assistantship.
- For the 2017-18 AY, the department is offering 13 sections of concurrent courses in College Algebra, Trigonometry, Algebra/Trig, Elementary Statistics, and Calculus I.
- In November, at the Arkansas Curriculum Conference, faculty members Drs. Jason Fetterly, Nesrin Sahin, and Long Le along with math majors Lucas McEntire, Bryan Jones, and Grace Delph are presenting 5 papers.
- 21 students (16 undergraduates and 5 graduate students) received various degrees in mathematics during the spring and summer commencements.
- 20 middle and high school students participated in a three-week summer program offered by the Math Department in cooperation with the STEM Institute.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Drs. Frederickson, Austin, and Menon attended the Fundamentals of Program Assessment workshop Saturday, September 30th in Chicago. The workshop presents assessment criteria and processes that are best practices identified by ABET. The new Engineering Physics track will seek accreditation under the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) and the rest of the physics tracks will seek accreditation under the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission (ANSAC).
 - Program areas covered under ANSAC:
 - Construction Management and Similarly Named Programs

- Environmental, Health, and Safety and Similarly Named Applied and Natural Science Programs
- Health Physics and Similarly Named Applied and Natural Science Programs
- Industrial Hygiene and Similarly Named Applied and Natural Science Programs
- Safety and Similarly Named Applied and Natural Science Programs
- Survey, Geomatics and Similarly Named Applied and Natural Science Programs

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Our Science Specialist took a new position at Archford. Search is being conducted for the replacement.
- Working on the NSF-RET proposal. This is in collaboration with Computer Science Department – Bernard Chen is PI and Uma Garimella is the Co-PI.
- We are invited to College of Education Department meetings to talk about our resources and how we can support UCA students.
- Planning on submitting two more grants proposals.

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- Homecoming is October 28th. Mimosa and hors d'oeuvres will be served from 11-1 at Conway Corporation Center for Sciences.
- Pre-Med Panel discussion for students is November 2nd in Lewis Science Center 102.