

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – October 26, 2015

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, October 26, 2015. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Pat Desrochers, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, and Carl Frederickson. Guest: Hunter Goodman.

Agenda Items:

- The minutes from the September 18, 2015 meetings were approved.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on graduation requirements and the use of Degree Works to insure that a student has met the necessary requirements for graduation. He informed chairs that Berdie Eubank has been working on cleaning up issues in Degree Works and would be willing to train advisors on how to use the What If analysis tool.
- Dean Addison updated council on his recent meeting with Metova. They would like to have an on-campus presence and are looking for interns from across the CNSM disciplines.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on growing the Computer Science Engineering program and the need to provide more full-ride scholarships to students in this discipline.
- Dean Addison thanked everyone for going to recruiting events this year. Discussion followed. It was agreed that the College Fair events were very successful but Information Nights were not well attended.
- Dean Addison asked that chairs continue to encourage faculty to get research proposals turned in early. Discussion followed regarding the need for additional staffing in Sponsored Programs to better support faculty during the grant writing process.
- Ginny Adams announced that the new ARGOS dashboards would be rolling out soon.
- Ginny Adams led a discussion on the possibility of requiring faculty to input grades into Blackboard.
- Ginny Adams announced that the Digital Measures committee were continuing to make improvements and that they added a new roster report which is missing some degree and status information. She asked that chairs take a look at the report and work on filling in the missing data. Dr. Adams also announced that Kristin Heffington is our new contact person for Digital Measures.

Other Items

- Hunter Goodman presented Chairs with thank you gifts for their involvement with the Bill Nye Reception. Discussion followed on improvements and ideas for future events to recognize and recruit donors.
- Dean Addison announced that there would be a College Faculty Forum held on November 11, 2015 at 3:00pm in LSC 102 to discuss expanding the definition of tenurable ranks for UCA faculty.

Chair Reports

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- David Dussourd published a paper, "Tehroa zethus Caterpillars Use Acid Secretion of Anti-predator Gland to Deactivate Plant Defense," PLOS ONE (in press).
- Two SURF proposals submitted with undergraduates: Dr. Kari Naylor and Dr. Arijit Mukherjee.
- Sally Entrekin was on a NSF panel and met a researcher from Kansas State University who mentored a former UCA undergraduate, Jacob Carter. He finished his PhD at the University of Kansas in August, and now he is a postdoc in DC working with the EPA.
- The Jewel Moore Nature Reserve moratorium ends in December 2015. The JMNR Committee recently completed a recommendation for President Courtway and the Board of Trustees regarding the continued preservation of the reserve.
- Biology has two faculty searches underway: a Lecturer I position and a tenure track Genetics position is currently advertised and will close December 1st.
- Biology is also working on an administrative assistant search; interviews are concluding this week.

Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- One of our alum, Slaton Fry (BS 1980), is sharing his experience as an industrial chemist at a seminar on October 29, 2015, X-period in Laney-Manion room 102. The seminar is titled, "Soft Skills for Chemists" and the same message could apply to any person in a STEM field on being successful in industry. Please share with interested students and faculty.

Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Tansel Halic gave an invited talk titled, "Virtual Surgery Simulations," on October 16, 2015 in the IGCP Colloquium Series of UALR's College of Engineering.
- Victor Sheng gave an invited talk on September 11, 2015 in the distinguished speaker series and colloquium of UA Fayetteville Computer Science and Computer Engineering Department.

Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Most of the department will be gone next week, conferences in Texas and Little Rock.
- Kudos to Faith Yarberrry for organizing the Pseudoscience poster session, we sent several of our FYS student's to it and it was popular with them.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- A task force has been formed to study the calculus readiness issues and make recommendations on how to address the problem.
- The 2nd annual Calculus Competition will be held on November 19, 2015 from 3:00-5:00PM.
- James Fetterly presented two papers at the National Conference for the Association of Middle Level Education (AMLE) held in Columbus, OH from October 15 to 17. One of the presentations, "Problem Posing: The Invention of Great Problems," was co-presented with Dr. Betty K. Wood. The other presentation was, "A Mathematical Practice: Brainstorming."

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Paper Published from STEM Institute in NCTM journal:
Umadevi Garimella and Belinda Robertson (2015) "Mathematics Modeling: Cell Shape,"
Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School, 21(3), 180-188
- MWERA – Mid-Western Education Research Association conference Evanston IL– Invited presentation (all expenses paid). Dr. Uma Garimella and Dr. Debra Burris presented. Incorporating Library of Congress primary resources in STEM fields using Geocaching.
- Arkansas Curriculum Conference – STEM Institute is playing a major part.
 - Taking care of presenters and presiders information
 - Presenting – Math, Science and Literacy
- Partnership with Horace Mann Middle School: Specialists conducted an evening training session for all science and math teachers and science night
- STEAM in Little Rock: First field trip for teachers in collaboration with Henderson State University. 20 K-12 teachers from all over Arkansas were introduced to the resources available in Little Rock. Visited Innovation Hub, Museum of Discovery and Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center. Teachers were given information regarding grants, field trips, science night, resources, guest speakers, summer events, and activities.

Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- Dr. Carl Frederickson presented a poster at the 2015 International Learning Assistant Workshop in Boulder, CO October 4-6.
- Dr. Debra Burris from Physics and Astronomy and Dr. Uma Garimella from the UCA STEM Institute presented a paper at the MWERA Conference; Evanston, IL on October 20-24, 2015
- Students, Seth Thomas, Max Milan, Caleb Webb, and Harrison Cardillo have received a \$5,000 grant to compete in the "Chainless Challenge Student Competition" from the Parker Hannifin Corporation. Dr. William Slaton is mentoring the team. The competition is to design and build a bike that does not use a chain drive.