

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – November 16, 2015

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, November 16, 2015. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Pat Desrochers, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, and Carl Frederickson. Guest: Tracy Monin.

### Agenda Items:

- Tracy Monin with the UCA Foundation presented an overview of STARS, the online scholarship application program currently being used by the foundation. Discussion followed on how the software can be tailored to fit the needs of the CNSM.
- Minutes from the October 26, 2015 meeting were approved.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on class availability for the Spring 2016 semester. The provost is willing to fund additional sections and Dean Addison asked that the chairs work on getting new sections opened quickly. Discussion followed on the need to address the issue earlier.
- Dean Addison discussed the SBAC ranking process and encouraged Chairs to attend the public hearings to learn more.
- Dean Addison reported on the Executive Committee visit with Apple on November 3-4<sup>th</sup>. He said that we are looking at what apple education has to offer and working on a UCA portal on iTunes University. He announced that the Executive Committee was meeting tomorrow to discuss requiring laptop or tablets in the classroom.
- Dean Addison updated the council on the progress of developing a new reassigned time policy. He asks that the chairs turn in their equivalent load reports so he could present the CNSM request as a whole.

### Other Items

- Dean Addison asked chairs to respond to Brian Corbin's email regarding transfer course guidelines that are not currently in ACTS. Discussion followed on issues related to transfer students in CNSM specific programs.

### Chair Reports

#### Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Ginny and Reid Adams took several students to the Southwestern Fisheries Council in Gainesville, Florida. Two students gave oral presentations and one student gave a poster presentation. Brittany Furtado, MS Student, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for her oral presentation. Ginny was voted to remain as acting chair of the council.
- Drs. Marian and Mukherjee took several students to the INBRE Research Conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- We hired a new administrative assistant, Sandy Nilz.

## Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- Rick Tarkka participated in the CTE lunch and learn, “Developing Meaningful Program Assessment,” on October 28, 2015.
- Student ACS organization took the lead in celebrating National Chemistry Week (October 19-23). The organization sponsored chemical element cupcake giveaways as well as a webinar on chemical safety. For the latter program, UCA ACS participated in a national webinar sponsored by the ACS on issues with safe working in the chemical laboratory.
- Karen Steelman attended a conference October 22-23 at the Texas Archeological Society annual meeting in Houston and presented a poster entitled, “Two Independent Methods for Dating Rock Art: Age Determination of Paint and Oxalate Layers at Eagle Cave, TX.”
- Two students from Karen Steelman’s group presented posters at the regional ACS in Memphis, Tennessee.
- Ben Scheuter attended a lab safety workshop at the regional ACS meeting in Memphis, Tennessee.
- Tori Dunlap and her student, Amber Rolland, attended a biochemistry conference in Carbondale, IL.
- Two students, Ranin Phomakay and Katherine Demaree, presented their work at the Arkansas INBRE meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Both gave oral presentations. Katherine won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the chemistry oral division.

## Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Response to the last year’s computer science ABET report, written by Dr. Addison, was well received with the following summary: “No deficiencies, weaknesses, or concerns were found.”
- Drs. Kockara and Halic and their students published a paper entitled, “Fractals for Malignancy Detection in Dermoscopy Images,” in IEEE International Conference on Healthcare Informatics 2015 (ICHI 2015). Acceptance rate for this year’s ICHI conference was a little less than ~11%.

## Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Three faculty and two students presented papers or posters at the SW American Association of Geographers in San Antonio last week:
  - Student, Frank Zuniga presented a poster on *Environmental Injustice in Alabama: How Race and Income Influence Health Risk*.
  - Mason Sims came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the undergraduate research competition with his paper, *An Evolutionary Geography of Sport: How Traditional Methods Apply in a Virtual Age*.
  - Mary Sue Passe-Smith presented a paper: *Effects of Surface Characteristics on Tornado Genesis*.
  - Steve O’Connell presented a paper: *The Production & Migration Geographies of Professional Hockey, 1970-2010*. This paper has also been accepted for publication in the Papers in Applied Geography.
  - Matt Connolly presented a paper: *“My Friend the Fire Ant?” A Preliminary Analysis of the Roll of Fire Ant in Vineyard Health*.

- Matt Connolly also participated in an invited Panel Session hosted by the 2015 SWAAG Chair entitled “*Toward a Sustainable Future for Geography: Building on Strengths and Opportunities.*” We were the only university of our size, and the only Geography program in Arkansas, to be represented in the discussion.
- Matt Connolly’s submission to the Journal of Applied Geography has been accepted for publication; *Management Implications of Spatiotemporal Non-stationary in Municipal Water Consumption Patterns and Drivers.*
- We have hosted SWAAG twice over the past 20 years and want to again, but are in discussions with the president to make sure we can host it in 2027, as that will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the UCA Department of Geography.
- The search committee has narrowed down the list of candidates for the Physical Geography position; they hope to get a short list of 7 or 8 to me before Thanksgiving Break.

## Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Dr. Beyerl submitted a SURF proposal with an undergraduate student, Garret Franson.

## STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- The STEM Institute is holding an open house on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> in Main 214 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

## Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- Three faculty, Drs. Addison, Mehta, and Walker and seven students, Charles Bertram, Shaohui Qui, Qinqing Yang, Doug Roisen, Lawrence Benzmilller, Cassandra Lange, and Paul Niyonkuru attended the annual INBRE conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Students presented six posters. The poster by Lawrence Benzmilller and Hayley Heacox received the Second Place award in the Physics division.
- Three faculty, Carl Frederickson from Physics and Astronomy, Mark Bland from Biology, and Faith Yarberrry from Chemistry along with two Noyce Scholarship recipients Cyrus Koch and Jaime Mullins attended the 2015 Midwest Noyce Conference on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Omaha, Nebraska. A poster was presented detailing the UCA Noyce scholarship program.
- Will Slaton and Carl Frederickson presented a Microprocessor Workshop for high school teachers on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was organized through the UCA STEM Institute. Eleven teachers attended the workshop and learned about the Arduino and Raspberry pi microprocessor platforms.
- The Women’s Giving Circle has awarded Debra Burriss a \$1,000 grant. These funds will be used to bring 20 female high school juniors who have expressed an interest in a career in science or math to UCA for a day in March of 2016. The students will meet with female faculty in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, participate in a regular physics class, eat lunch with some of the female physics majors, and hear from a few female alumni with BS degrees in physics. Students will be recruited from Atkins High School, Conway High School, Mount Vernon/Enola High School, and Parkview High School.

- Dr. Frederickson attended the UCA Information Night in the Dallas/Fort Worth area on November 12. There were between 25 and 30 prospective students at this event. All of them had looked at UCA before coming and were very interested in our programs. This is a very important market that UCA is just beginning to recruit heavily.