

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – November 4, 2013

A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, November 4, 2013. All chairs were present. Dr. Uma Garimella, Director of the STEM Institute, was absent. Drs. Chenyi Hu and Rick Scott were guests.

Agenda Items:

1. Dr. Chenyi Hu, CNSM's representative on the Faculty Handbook revision committee, addressed the chairs. Dr. Hu distributed handouts of proposed chapter 3 revisions. He explained that the committee will meet again November 15th and that all proposed changes and ideas for improving the handbook should be emailed to him before that date. Following the discussion Dr. Hu excused himself from the meeting.
2. Dr. Rick Scott, Director of Exemplary Studies, spoke to the group regarding revamping the program. Dr. Scott handed out material outlining the steps being taken by the members of the Honors Council. Various avenues, including undergraduate thesis production paralleling graduate thesis production, to recognizing outstanding students, were discussed. Increasing the quantity and quality of applications for national prestigious fellowships was encouraged. Dr. Scott is working with Sponsored Programs to develop logistical support for national fellowships advisement. Following the discussion Dr. Scott excused himself from the meeting.
3. Minutes from the 10-21-13 CoC were approved.
4. Dean Addison discussed the visit from Drs. Bill and Sheri Wischusen from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge. They were on campus to help with establishing a productive CNSM Boot Camp. LSU hosts a very successful boot camp every year and Drs. Bill and Sheri Wischusen are instrumental in its presentation and ongoing development. The pair was on campus November 4th and 5th.
5. Dean Addison discussed directed congressional funding and asked the chairs to get their requests in by the following day.
6. Dr. Ginny Adams reported on Digital Measures saying that the effort to standardize it is now in place
7. Dr. Adams also reported that the Fishery Society hosted a fish-fry at UCA's homecoming.

Chairs Reports:

Biology:

- Dr. Cash reminded the council of the upcoming science/math night at Carl Stuart Middle School that will take place November 19th from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for 5th, 6th and 7th graders. Dr. Gomez-Kramer invites faculty to participate.
- Dr. Cash reported that the review of applications for the open Animal Physiology position has begun. The review of applications for the open Cellular Biology position will begin November 23rd.
- Dr. Ben Cash and UCA graduate student, Phillip Seiwert, recently had an article titled *The Effects of Two Fish Predators on Wood Frog (*Lithobates Sylvaticus*) Tadpoles in a Subarctic Wetland: Hudson Bay Lowlands, Canada* published in the Canadian Journal of Zoology.

Chemistry:

- Dr. Mauldin reported that four new lab sections of Chem 1400, Chemistry in Society, taught by Dr. Kimberly Reynolds, have been opened.

Computer Science:

- Dr. Frederickson reported on the ABET on-site visit November 27th, 28th and 29th.

Math:

- Dr. Garimella reported that the Math Department has formed an inter-departmental committee to explore the feasibility of a set of courses (and eventually a certificate program) focused on statistical analysis and data mining problems and solution strategies from a business perspective. This possibly could fall under a program of distinction that Provost Runge mentioned at the last CoC meeting. The committee consists of Drs. Ramesh Garimella, R.B. Lenin, Pat Carmack, Bernard Chen (CS) and Kaye McKinzie (Business College).
- Dr. R.B. Lenin's entitled *Performance Analysis of Wireless Sensor Networks Using Queuing Networks* (co-authored with S. Ramaswamy) has been accepted for publication in Annals of Operations Research journal.
- Taylor Erwin, who received his MS degree in Applied Math in 2009 and a BS degree in Applied Math in 2007 from UCA, successfully defended his PhD dissertation in Computational Engineering from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga last week. Taylor worked with Dr. Clarence Burg on his master's thesis in computational mathematics.
- Drs. Linda Griffith, Carolyn Pinchback, and Jean McGehee attended the Arkansas Curriculum Conference in Little Rock last week. The following BSE students also attended: Jacob Tillman, Jamie Slay, Kristen Ellis, Kinzey Traphagan, Stephanie Eubanks, Kristen Hall, Weston Burgess, Kayle Rutherford, and Josh Salisbury.

Physics:

- Dr. Frederickson reported that on Friday, November 18th, at 8:00 p.m., SPS would sponsor a Google Hangout with Dr. Katherine Mack from Melbourne, Australia. Dr. Mack will be discussing dark matter.
- Representatives from UALR will be on campus Tuesday, November 12th, to present information on the SUPER summer program. The program is similar to an REU at UALR. The presentation will take place during C-period in LSC 170.
- Dr. Matthew Francis will discuss black holes during X-period, Thursday, November 14th, in LSC 170. This is another SPS sponsored Google Hangout.
- Dr. Frederickson will attend the Star City School system's STEM Night November 12th.