

## **COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS**

### **Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – March 17, 2014**

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A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, March 17, 2014. All chairs were present. Associate Dean Ginny Adams was absent from the meeting.

#### **Agenda Items:**

1. Minutes from the 2-3-14 CoC were approved.
2. Dean Addison announced that he will be meeting with Gene Castin with Stuck Architecture & Associates Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss replacing the roof on Lewis Science Center. Later in the month there will be more meetings to discuss the actual building addition plans.
3. Dean Addison stated that assessment plans need to be turned in to the Dean's Office as soon as possible so that they may go before the College Curriculum and Assessment Committee.
4. The upper division core was discussed and should be ready to go live fall of 2015. All the material is due by December 14, 2014 in order to get it in the Undergraduate Bulletin.
5. Dean Addison announced that position requests are due to the Dean's Office by April 12<sup>th</sup> and due to to the Provost by April 18<sup>th</sup>.
6. Dean Addison reported that a workshop entitled UCA and Nationally Competitive Awards would be held April 10<sup>th</sup> at Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center. The purpose of the workshop is to "jump-start" efforts at UCA to increase the frequency of applicants for national fellowships and the quality of their advisement and preparation. An email outlining the workshop has been sent to the faculty of the College of Natural Sciences. Dean Addison would like to see more faculty involved in the process.
7. Dean Addison reported on his trip to Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana, March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. William Slaton and Nancy Austin went with him to learn more about the Cyber Discovery program. Cyber Discovery, a catalytic and foundational facet of the Cyber Discovery Model, is a professional development program that provides a unique opportunity for high school teachers to engage their students under the support and mentoring of university faculty.

#### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:**

1. Dean Addison announced the potential move of the Geography Department into

the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Discussion followed. Dean Addison and Associate Dean Ginny Adams will be meeting with CNSM faculty and faculty from the Geography Department to further explore the possibility.

### **Chairs Reports:**

#### **Biology:**

- Dr. Cash reported on the search for the two open Biology positions. An offer for the Animal Physiologist position has been made and the final candidate for the Cellular Biologist position is interviewing on campus today.
- The recent Science Nights at St. Joseph and Mayflower schools were very successful.

#### **Chemistry:**

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the Department of Chemistry sent seven faculty and fourteen students to present their research at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Dallas, Texas, March 14<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>. While at the meeting, the UCA student affiliates section of the ACS received recognition as an “Outstanding” section, the highest ranking given to student groups by the ACS. Faculty sponsors of this student group are Drs. Kristin Dooley, Faith Yarberry, and Karen Steelman. Sergio Perez, president of the UCA ACS student group, accepted the award on behalf of the student organization.
- The Department of Chemistry congratulates Sergio Perez for winning this year’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Outstanding Student Award.

#### **Computer Science:**

- No report.

#### **Math:**

- No report.

#### **Physics:**

- No report.

#### **STEM Institute:**

- Dr. Uma Garimella reported that the STEM Institute has received two grant fundings, Beginner Robotics in STEM teaching (\$68,750) and a Commitment to Excellence grant (\$6,600).
- On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the STEM Institute hosted a ETA Hands2Mind Workshop using manipulatives in teaching mathematics.

- The STEM Institute will host the Science Literacy Workshop, with presenters from the University of California-Berkley, on May 3, 2014.
- The institute is receiving invitations from North East educational cooperatives to conduct Pre-AP training for their teachers.