

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Chairs Council Meeting – April 1, 2013

A meeting of the Chairs' Council of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held Monday, April 2, 2013. All chairs were present. Dr. Charles Watson was a guest.

Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from the 3-11-13 CoC were approved as amended.
2. Dr. Charles Watson, chair of the Curriculum and Assessment committee, presented examples of accountability plans for curriculum and assessment. He pointed out that the Assessment Handbook is on-line.
3. Dr. Adams gave an update on the upcoming Girls of Promise meeting that will take place Saturday, April 6th. One hundred and thirty nine 8th grade girls have signed up to attend.
4. The coordination of Mathematics and Science Education was discussed. Due to the retirement of Dr. Donna Foss, Dean Addison asked the chairs to recommend some names to be considered for her replacement.
5. Spring commencement was discussed. Dr. Ginny Adams will lead the graduate line. Dean Addison asked the chairs to send him names to be considered as the marshal for the undergraduate line.
6. Dean Addison told the chairs that the new science building was addressed at the Board of Trustees' retreat. It was decided that the cost and plan for the new building would be put on the next CoC's agenda.

Miscellaneous Announcements and Reminders:

1. Dean Addison reminded the chairs that the 19th Annual Student Research Symposium will take place April 19th in the Student Center Ballroom.

Chairs Reports:

Biology:

- Dr. Cash reported that the 59th Annual AR State Science Fair, was held March 29th and 30th. There was an increase in student participation this year and the fair was deemed a huge success.

- Dr. Don Shepard has accepted the position of Population Geneticist in the Biology Department. Dr. Shepard received his doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.
- Dr. Calin Marian has accepted the position of Cellular Biologist in the Biology Department. Dr. Marian received his doctorate from Florida State University and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Chemistry:

- Dr. Mauldin reported that the Department of Chemistry finalized its research application process for students to begin research in the fall semester 2013, Eleven students applied to do research, with seven of these students being placed in available positions.
- Dr. Mary Lowe Good, a 1951 graduate of UCA (Arkansas State Teachers College at that time), was featured in The Catalyst Film: Women in Chemistry, which was “funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and created by the Chemical Heritage Foundation. See the following link to view the film:
http://www.chemheritage.org/discover/online-resources/women-in-chemistry/mary-good.aspx?utm_source=university&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wic
The series follows the adventures of eight leading women in chemistry and celebrates the common element that catalyzed their journeys: a life-changing, chance-taking, thrill-seeking love of science.”
- Dr. Good is also being recognized at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, in April of 2013, in New Orleans. The ACS Division of the History of Chemistry is sponsoring a symposium entitled *Mary L. Good: Her Legacy in Science, Policy and Service*.

Computer Science:

- Dr. Hu reported that Dr. Tansel Halic received a research sub-award in the amount of \$91,957.00 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for the collaborative research project: *THEO – Tactile and Hapticas Enabled Open Surgery*.
- Dr. Albert Turner, Jr. visited the computer science department from March 27-29 as the external reviewer for the Master of Science in Applied Computing degree program.

Math:

- Dr. Garimella reported that Dr. Charles Watson, Associate Professor, was consultant and major contributor of the calculator and assignments that were incorporated in the McGraw Hill custom textbook: Math in Our World; Quantitative Literacy Edition by Dave Sobeci et. al. that is being used on our campus for Math 1360 and has been adopted by a number of other campuses in Arkansas for a course on qualitative literacy.

Physics:

- Dr. Frederickson reported that Drs. Debra Burris and Azida Walker traveled with six Physics majors; Mishal Benson, Shelby Burns, Nicholas Heller, Aaron Johnson, Ethan McMoran, Westley Sullens, and Ben Thines to conduct experiments at the University of Oklahoma's Weather Lab as part of PHYS 3120. They left Conway on Thursday morning, March 28th and returned on Saturday, March 30th. They were fortunate to have storms pop up in their area on Friday morning that provided plenty of good data. This is the first time a set of students have conducted measurements at the Weather Lab.
- Graduating Physics major Matthew Hankins has received an Honorable Mention for his NSF Graduate Research Fellowship proposal. Matthew will be attending Cornell University in the fall semester for graduate study.