

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - February 5, 2018

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, February 5, 2018. Ginny Adams presided, members present: Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, Steve O'Connell. Members Absent: Stephen Addison. Guests: Leigh Ann DenHartog, Director Academic Advising; Carrie Tinsley, CNSM Advisor; and Amelia Jaeger, CNSM Advisor/Transfer Services Advisor.

Agenda Items:

1. Leigh Ann DenHartog, Director of Academic Advising, updated council on changes in Academic Advising including the Progress to Degree Form that will be implemented in the upcoming semester. Discussion followed on how to transition students smoothly to department advisors so they can get connected sooner. Leigh Ann invited Chairs to shadow academic advisors to get a better understanding of the entire process. She also asked to meet with the council at least once a semester.
2. Brent Hill updated council on upcoming changes to programs in the CHBS that will impact courses offered in the CNSM. The BA in Psychology is being eliminated and Brent is working with department to develop new AMAP. Nursing plans on expanding their program to include a Spring admission of 72 which will increase demand on some Biology courses and phasing out others. Discussion followed.
3. Brent Hill led a discussion on the new NSF EPSCoR proposal in Data Science. Even though UCA is not the lead on the proposal there are still many opportunities for funding.
4. Ginny led a discussion on the new guidelines for poster printing and asked that Chairs encourage their faculty to complete the request form when registering for conferences. This allows for better planning and time management. Discussion followed.
5. Ginny reminded Chairs to make sure they have office coverage all day and to let the Dean's office know if no one will be there.

Other Items/Announcements

- Pat Desrochers led a discussion on printing versus copies and how to best manage costs when funds are from an outside source.
- INBRE pilot grant proposals are due March 1, 2018.
- Next CoC will be March 5, 2018 at 1 p.m.
- Day of Giving is March 8th.
- Faculty Development Grants due March 15th.
- Arkansas State Science Fair is March 30-31st.
- CNSM Poster Symposium is April 20th in the Farris Center.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Chance Garrett received Best Student Poster Award at the Arkansas American Fisheries Society meeting.
- Michelle Fleming (graduate student) was offered a position as a Private Lands Biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
- Chelsey Sherwood (graduate student) was offered a position with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.
- Aaron Burgad (graduate student) was offered a position at a consulting firm in Arizona.
- In January, Kari Naylor served as a reviewer for an NSF undergraduate research program.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Bill Taylor and Pat Desrochers attended the EPSCoR retreat at Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain, January 4-5th.
- Faith Yarberry attended an ACS leadership conference, January 19-21st, coinciding with her election to be president of the Central AR section of the ACS for 2018-2019 academic year.
- Marsha Massey co-organized a Gordon Research Conference on Renewable Solar Fuels held in Ventura, CA, January 28-February 2, 2018.
- Victora Dunlap submitted an NSF MRI request for a Luminescence Spectrometer (\$197,000) involving multiple CNSM users across chemistry and biology.
- Two students, A. Ngyuen and E. Tran, were nominated for Goldwater Scholarships.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Two graduate students, German Valenzuela and Valentin Velchev, successfully defended their theses.
- Bernard Chen served on an NSF review panel.
- As a commissioner of the ABET Computing Accreditation Commission, Chenyi Hu reviewed a computer science program and a computational media program for their accreditation in the 2017-2018 cycle.
- Sinan Kockara and Tansel Halic published an article in BMC Bioinformatics. The first author of the article is a CS graduate student.
- Tansel Halic submitted a proposal to the NIH RO1 program in collaboration with Indiana School of Medicine, Baylor University Medical Center, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The UCA portion is about \$169K.
- Victor Sheng served as the finance chair of the IEEE ICDM Conference.
- Yu Sun and her students participated in the Annual STEM night at Ruth Doyle Middle School. They presented VR, robots, and drones.

- A team of International Skin Imaging Collaboration researchers including Emre Celebi published a paper in the prestigious Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, which, according to Thomson Reuters, ranks 1st out of 63 dermatology journals.
- Emre Celebi served in the program committee of the Data Mining special track of the 31st International FLAIRS Conference.

Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- Matt Connolly recently finished a pilot study on the feasibility of recreational mountain bike trails on the Ouachita Trail in the Lake Maumelle Watershed. Findings were incorporated into a proposal for a full study; he has a meeting with the CEO of Central Arkansas Water this week to discuss the results of the proposal.
- Matt Connolly received funding through the College and URC to purchase a RTK GNSS. This survey-grade GPS device has potential field accuracy to the centimeter. It is intended to help in high-resolution mapping of Ozark watershed morphology.
- Will Flatley was awarded the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative grant to fund modeling work on climate change, forest management and ecosystem services and URC funding to support a fire history project at Lake Winona.
- Steve O'Connell was invited to participate in an interdisciplinary workshop at the Clinton Library through the Clinton Foundation. He will be presenting on the topic of mapping techniques during the Hunter-Dunbar expedition of 1804-1805 on Monday, February 12.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Three undergraduate math majors, Madison Martin (also majoring in chemistry), Andrea Weaver, and Azaryah Wilson, presented research posters at the 2018 Joint Mathematical Meetings (JMM) in San Diego from January 9-13th. JMM is the largest mathematical meeting in the world. All three students received travel funding from the Math Department and the CNSM Dean's office. Madison also received funds from the Chemistry Department.
 - Madison's poster entitled, "Modeling Growth in Polymers." She was mentored by Dr. Danny Arrigo (Math) and Dr. Rick Tarkka (Chemistry).
 - Andrea's poster was titled, "Nonclassical Symmetries of a Power Law Harry Dym Equation," and she was mentored by Dr. Arrigo.
 - Azaryah, mentored by Dr. Long Le (Math), presented his poster on "Population Movement in an Epidemic."
- Campus interviews are being scheduled for the next two weeks for TT Applied Stat positions.
- ACTM Regional Math Contest will be held on our campus on March 3rd. Dr. Carolyn Pinchback and Ms. Loi Booher are co-directors for the contest.
- Dr. R.B. Lenin has resigned his tenured associate professor position to accept a job in industry.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Dr. Debra Burris is part of the team that was awarded the AGATE (Arkansas Gifted and Talented Education) curriculum award for a school of 1000 students or less for the eighth year in a row. Dr. Burris has been instrumental in developing cross-curricular, year-long, intensive units for the fifth and sixth grade GT program. These units include components of science, history, art, literacy and technology. They are based upon standards from the fifth and sixth grade curriculum guides however they delve much deeper into topics that are normally not covered in the classroom. It allows the students to learn more about subjects that sometimes are considered a bit difficult to convey such as this year's unit on the Native American perspective of the trail of tears. Working with now retired GT coordinator Betsy Hays, Dr. Burris has written and applied for numerous successful grants proposals for the Adkins GT program. These include an Arkansas Historic Commission Grant, the AGATE affiliate award, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Stream Team Grant and the Target field trip Grant. This has allowed the GT program to be self-funding for special projects and trips including annual parent night where students are able to showcase their work. Students have participated in service projects including a workday at Mount Magazine State Park and collecting books to send it to Rwanda with this UCA study abroad program.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Grants: Received three grant funds
 - State wide STEM Leadership for Girls: \$4,750. Will be hosting one-day conference on March 9, 2018 for 130 girls from 5 school districts.
 - Targeted STEM Leadership for Girls: \$12,540. Hosting one-day conference on March 2, 2018 for 130 girls from Conway school district.
 - Excellence in STEM: \$6,600 to purchase science materials and equipment for 3-6 grade school and offer in-class professional development training for proper use of the equipment.
- We will be presenting at Second Arkansas STEM Summit – Feb 12-13.
- Invited to present at STEM Success at the University of AR – Pulaski Technical College. They have a federally funded grant with a focus on increasing the number of African Americans and women entering STEM careers and majors. They are hosting a free professional workshop, with breakout sessions, on April 27, 2018 to address STEM needs in our state.
- New Specialist – Nicole Martin is doing an excellent job
 - Already conducted teachers training that had 40 teachers represented from more than 10 school districts.
 - Hosted several informational sessions for pre-service and in-service teachers.
 - Attending relevant trainings such as HHMI Training and on-line.
- Math Specialist search is going on well.
- Suggestion: Would like to invite HHMI one day training for our faculty and maybe community College faculty. This is free. Need to look at possible dates.

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- Would like to attend next departmental meetings of each department to discuss Day of Giving on March 8th.
- Math Department has Pie Day on March 14th. Alumni will be on campus.