

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - April 2, 2018

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, April 2, 2018. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, Steve O'Connell. Guests: Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer, Kurt Boniecki, Associate Provost for Instructional Support.

Agenda Items:

1. Dr. Boniecki gave an overview of the Gateways to Completion (G2C) conference he recently attended that focused on ways to teach courses to increase student success without lowering standards or content. He is putting a committee together to look at ways UCA can improve and is looking for CNSM courses that could be used as a starting point.
2. Minutes from February 19th meeting were approved with minor revisions.
3. Dean Addison distributed the new F&A allocations that will begin with proposals awarded in the next fiscal year. The new allocation will provide funds to the PI in a rollover account.
4. Dean Addison led a discussion on student hiring and payroll issues and asks that chairs please contact the Dean's office before contacting HR for assistance. He asks that chairs remind their faculty that students should be paid or receive class credit for working in a lab and that students can not start work until hiring paperwork has been approved. Students can not work more than 20 hours per week or be paid more than \$14.99/hour without prior approval from the Provost.
5. Dean Addison announced that Day of Giving went well and we will look at the data to determine which funds to focus on in the future.

Other Items/Announcements

- Dean Addison reported that we had two honorable mentions from our Goldwater applicants.
- 36 students have been accepted into the new honors pilot program.
- The Secretary of the Air Force visit was very successful and our students were well represented.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Sally Entrekin has accepted a position at Virginia Tech.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Student ACS chapter hosted ACS Program in a Box webinar event on February 27th. This event brought in national speakers, via Skype and other e-access, to discuss “Opioids: Combating Addiction with Chemistry.” The event also included participation from Ouachita Baptist University. The UCA site was signaled out by the national ACS office as having the 6th highest attended site nationally (over 80 students and faculty participated in Laney Manion Hall).
- Jayda Williams (chem major, BS 2018) was recognized by UCA as a 2018 Newman Civic Fellow.
- Dr. Joe Allison (BS 1979, Distinguished Alum 2013) received the 2018 Distinguished Researcher Award in Petroleum Chemistry. The award is sponsored by the Energy & Fuels Division of the American Chemical Society. Joe was recognized at a banquet and with a symposium in his honor at the recent ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, March 19-21, 2018.
- Dr. Ariel Marshall (BS 2008) was recognized as an Unsung Hero by the Alliance to Save Energy. The Alliance promotes “Using energy more productively to achieve economic growth, a cleaner environment and greater energy security, affordability and reliability.” The Alliance was founded in 1977 by a pair of US senators and is situated in Washington, DC.
- 13 students and 5 faculty presented results of their UCA research at the recent ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, March 19-21, 2018. At this meeting, the UCA Student ACS chapter received their formal Outstanding Chapter Award (one of 53 chapters so recognized out of 1070 chapters nationwide) and their second consecutive Green Chemistry Award. This was the chapter’s 5th outstanding recognition over the past 6 years. Drs. Faith Yarberry and Greg Naumiac are the chapter advisors.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- We have recently made two offers for our tenure-track Computer Engineering and Cybersecurity positions.
- Bernard was appointed as a temporary member of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Alabama.
- Olcay Kursun’s proposal was funded by the URC (\$3000).
- Chenyi Hu was involved in the development of the IEEE 1788-1-2017: IEEE Standard for Interval Arithmetic (simplified), which was released recently.
- Emre Celebi served as an external examiner on a PhD committee from the University of British Columbia (Canada).

Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- Michael Yoder presented a paper at the Arkansas Political Science Association Meeting in Jonesboro on March 2nd titled, "American-Mexican Steel Trade Policy Since 1940: Ramifications for NAFTA Renegotiation". The paper was presented the day following the President's announcement on steel and aluminum tariffs and spurred a productive and lively Q&A session with the audience and panel.
- Ellen Hostetter had a paper titled, "The Landscapes of Early Automobile Registration and Licensing Laws: Creating New Jersey's Department of Motor Vehicles, 1903-1957" published in the Journal of Urban History. The basis for her article was also covered in an Atlas Obscura article, "It's Soul-Crushing, But Don't Take the DMV for Granted," published on March 27th. (<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/secret-history-of-the-dmv>)
- UCA Geography is co-hosting the Arkansas Geography Bee with the Arkansas Geographic Alliance this Friday, April 6th. Introductions start at 10am in Ida Waldran with the competitive rounds going on throughout the morning and early afternoon. The final round should begin about 2:30, also in Ida Waldran.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- This has been the most successful hiring season ever at the Math Department. The Math Department has hired three new tenure track applied statistics faculty members to support our data science program. They are:
 - Dr. Sharif Mahmood – PhD from Kansas State University; currently a post doc at the University of Iowa
 - Mr. Yiel Kwaon – doctoral student at Temple University; expected to finish his degree by the end of this summer
 - Ms. Whitney Worley – doctoral student at Baylor University; expected to finish her degree by the end of this summer.
- Dr. Jeff Beyerl is taking several students to participate in math competitions at UALR and MAA OK-AR Sectional meetings in Russellville.
- A paper by Dr. Danny Arrigo, co-authored with an undergraduate student, Ms. Andrea Weaver, entitled, "Nonclassical Symmetries of a Power Law Harry Dym Equation," has been accepted for publication in the Journal Symmetry.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- The Physics Department will be bringing another candidate on campus to interview for the open engineering physics position.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No report

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- Gifts closed:
 - \$70,000 planned gift from Ralph Carruth
 - \$50,000 Grad School
- Projects:
 - Physics mail out
 - Residency mail out.
- Travel
 - San Diego – April 17-19, 2018
 - Washington D.C. – May 13-19, 2018