

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - May 29, 2018

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, Steve O'Connell.

Members Absent: Ramesh Garimella.

Guests: Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer, and Charles Watson, Mathematics representative.

Agenda Items:

1. Minutes from April 2, 2018 meeting were approved with minor revisions.
2. INBRE proposal for facilities.
3. The CNSM Advisory Board is being formed and the first meeting will be held in early August 2018. We still need to get a representative for Geography for the board.
4. Dean Addison asked Chairs to begin working on their annual reports in preparation for the new provost.
5. Dean Addison reminded Chairs that course syllabi must be ready on the first day of class and that Chairs should review syllabi before they are distributed to check for required information as outlined on the Provost's web page.
6. Dean Addison led a discussion on classroom responsibilities and asked Chairs to remind their faculty about Board Policies regarding relationships with students. Discussion followed on use of social media and the need to have separate professional and personal accounts. Other policies discussed were required accommodations, holding class meetings or making alternate arrangements when out, final exams, starting and ending class on time, and Title IX policies.
7. Ginny Adams informed Chairs about new student hiring and student travel rules. Extra Help hires must be processed through PeopleAdmin and be monitored closely as email notifications do not always go through which delays the approval process. Student Travel must go through financial aid now so there is additional paperwork that designates whether or not a student is getting course credit for the travel. Discussion followed.

Other Items/Announcements

- Mid-tenure reviews will not go through Digital Measures but we will still use it for reporting so it is important to keep populating it. Faculty can pull down from Digital Measures and format it for their application. Tenure applications will still be in 2" binders.
- Ginny Adams attended a meeting to discuss issues in Sponsored Programs. Topics included budget worksheets, reinstating grant reports, and getting information out to Department Chairs and Admins with start and ending dates of grants.
- Dr. Celebi asked about defining full time status for international students in the summer; SPO accepts 1 hour as $\frac{1}{2}$ time status and International Engagement says 6 hours. Discussion followed.
- Dean Addison asks Chairs to email their Chair Reports to be included in the minutes so council time can be used to discuss issues and ideas that could help all departments.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- No report

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- The department graduated a new record number of BS Chemistry students in May. 25 vs 22 in May 2017 and 16 in May 2014.
- Kristin Dooley received a NASA Space Grant award for equipment in her research.
- Makenzie Long submitted an NSF EPSCoR Seed grant proposal in April.
- Kaitlyn Walden was formally recognized as the department's 2018 Jerry Manion Award winner. Kaitlyn begins medical school at UAMS in the fall.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Michelle Talley served on the steering committee of the Girl Power in STEM Conference.
- Dr. Mahmut Karakaya presented a research poster in the 2018 SPIE Defense & Security Conference in Orlando, FL.
- Drs. Sinan Kockara and Emre Celebi attended the Third Annual Southern Dermatology Consortium held at the Donald W. Reynolds Aging Institute of UAMS. Emre presented his work on computer-aided diagnosis of skin cancer.
- Dr. Emre Celebi served as a panelist on a two-day NSF review panel.
- Dr. Emre Celebi was selected an Outstanding Reviewer by the "Pattern Recognition" and "Computers in Biology and Medicine" journals published by Elsevier.
- Dr. Emre Celebi visited the Department of Systems Design Engineering in the University of Waterloo, Canada, where he gave a colloquium talk.

Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- Five Geography faculty and three students presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers in New Orleans from April 10-15. The posters/papers presented:
 - Ashley Barto: "Vegetation Cover and Erosion Vulnerability in the Lake Maumelle Watershed, Arkansas" (poster)
 - Jesse Hufstedler: "Potential Electoral Impacts of Gill vs. Whitford" (poster)
 - Mark Mahar: "What Level of Complexity is Necessary? A Comparison of Runoff Potential Modeling Techniques in a Small Watershed." (poster)
 - Matthew Connolly: "Selecting Mountain Bike Impact Study Sites Using GIS, Field Reconnaissance and Stakeholder Input" (poster)

- William Flatley: “Modeling Novel Fire Management Approaches in a Changing Southwest Climate” (paper)
- Ellen Hostetter: “The Untapped Backstories of Local Experts” (paper)
- Stephen O’Connell: “GeoMentors: A Showcase of Volunteer Efforts in K-12 Geography Outreach” (panel)
- Stephen O’Connell: “Deciphering Leisure Landscapes” (paper)
- Brooks Pearson: “Spatial Analysis of the Impact of Climate Drivers on Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Tanzania” (poster)
- Senior Kristen Barre presented a poster “Safe Routes to School: Calculating Walkability” at the Annual Meeting of the National Planning Association in New Orleans from April 20-24.
- Matt Connolly is featured in the May 2018 edition of the Profiles of Geographers series on the website of the American Association of Geographers: <http://www.aag.org/cs/careerprofiles>
- Stephen O’Connell was a finalist for the 2018 UCA Teaching Excellence Award, presented on April 17.
- Geography graduated 23 students in Spring 2018:
 - 4 Geography
 - 3 Environmental Science – P&A
 - 7 MSCED
 - 9 MGIS

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No Report.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Dr. Debra Burris was nominated for Faculty Practitioner of the Year Service Learning Award this year. This is recognition of the public scholar component she has instituted in her College Physics and University Physics 3 courses.
Dr. Andrew Mason has published a paper in the Physical Review Physics Education Research titled, “ Consideration of learning orientations as an application of achievement goals in evaluating life science majors in introductory physics.” UCA physics alumnus Charles A. Bertram is a co-author.
- Drs. Steve Addison and Carl Frederickson attended the 102nd Meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science in Jonesboro, Arkansas at Arkansas State University, Saturday, April 7. Six students presented posters at the meeting. Paul Niyonkuru received the second place award for physics posters.
 - Sonja Wagner, Jake Bass, “Gamma-Gamma Angular Correlation” faculty mentor Rahul Mehta
 - Timothy Brown, Jealen Greer, “X-Ray Fluorescence” faculty mentor Rahul Mehta
 - Nicholas Scoles, “Development of an Acoustic Scanner” faculty mentor Carl Frederickson
 - Paul Niyonkuru, “Rutherford Backscattering Spectrometry” faculty mentor Rahul Mehta

- Paul Niyonkuru, “Analyzing the Changeover from a Macroscopic System to a Nanosystem by Investigating the Moving Boundary Between Two Phases” faculty mentor Steve Addison
- Drs. Azida Walker, William Slaton, and Rahul Mehta along with 3 of students attended the 26th Annual Arkansas Space Grant Consortium Symposium at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain, Friday April 20.
 - Russell Jeffery, “Cooperative Student-Built Multi-Payload Balloon-Satellite Eclipse Measurement” Faculty mentor William Slaton
 - Barr, Seth, “Using XRF to Investigate The Effects of Cosmic Radiation on Ion Channel Proteins.” Faculty mentor Azida Walker
 - Sidney Freyaldenhoven, "Effects of Simulated Micro-gravity and Cosmic radiation on the Mechanical and Chemical properties of Rat Femur and Tibia bones" Faculty mentor Rahul Mehta
- Nick Scoles has received a Summer Workforce Development grant from the ASGC. He will receive \$7,500 to conduct research with Dr. Frederickson over the summer.
- Dr. Frederickson has received funding from ASGC for a proposal titled “Imaging of acoustic wavefields scattered from curved surfaces”. The award totals \$7,500.
- Dr. Slaton has received funding from ASGC for a proposal titled “Data acquisition and stabilized imaging from stratospheric balloons.” The award totals \$10,000.
- Drs. Mehta has received funding from ASGC for a proposal titled “Effects of Radiation on Hind Limb Suspended Rats.” The award totals \$10,000.
- The Department has hired Dr. Daniel Bullock to fill our new engineering physics tenure-track position. Dr. Bullock has two BS degrees one in electrical engineering and one in physical science from ATU and an MS degree in applied physics and PhD in physics from UAF.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No report

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- No Report