

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - November 5, 2018

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, November 5, 2018. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Brent Hill, and Steve O'Connell. Members absent: Uma Garimella. Guest: Dr. Mark Bland.

### Agenda Items:

1. Dr. Mark Bland informed council that he is stepping down as director of the Arkansas State Science Fair after 12 years of service. Discussion followed on importance of hosting the fair at UCA and the need for faculty from all departments to get involved. Dr. Addison thanked Dr. Bland for his excellent service as director and willingness to serve through the 2019 fair and transition to a new director.
2. Dr. Addison shared the Ad Hoc Statistics Committee report and recommendations for statistics requirements at UCA. Discussion followed regarding qualifications of faculty and lower core requirement for this course. The Council of Deans will be discussing the recommendation at their November 7, 2018 meeting.
3. Dean Addison gave an update on facility needs in our college and addressed issues regarding how money is allocated for new building projects.
4. Dean Addison led a discussion on CNSM fundraising priorities and the need to seek private funding sources to support our current needs. Discussion followed on ways we can seek funding and the need to invite Kale Gober to a future council meeting to talk about how to develop connections for fundraising.
5. Dr. Adams led a discussion on the need for all faculty to follow required IT Work Order and Poster Printing guidelines so work can be scheduled and carried out efficiently. The guidelines can be found on our web page or she and John Black can attend a department meeting to go over the guidelines and answer faculty questions.

### Other Items/Announcements

- Dean Addison encouraged council to have their faculty support regional meetings such as INBRE and the Arkansas Academy of Science. These meetings offer great opportunities for service and presentation for both faculty and students.
- The Arkansas Academy of Science meeting will be at Hendrix the first weekend in April thus providing a cost effective way for several of our students to present. Opportunities for both oral and poster presentations will be available.

## Chair Reports:

### Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- No report

### Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, we had a fire drill/chemical spill evacuation simulation. This was a joint exercise conducted with the Prince Center. The drill was triggered by a simulated chemical spill on the third floor landing of the north stairwell of Laney-Manion. This blocked this stairwell exit and required evacuees to use alternative routes to safely exit.
- October 23-25, 2018, our student ACS group organized several activities to celebrate National Chemistry Week. Highlights included a local site hosting of the ACS webinar "Voyage to Mars," discussing the chemistry behind the challenges of travel to and habitation of Mars. This was hosted in Griffin Planetarium with the assistance of Dr. Scott Austin. A second highlight was a NASA internship seminar by alumna Hayley Heacox (BS 2017) who is now conducting graduate research at Texas A&M University.
- On October 30, 2018, a group of 8 faculty, staff, and our ACS student president (Desrochers, Freeman, Hart, Mauldin, Naumiec, Peel, Taylor, Tran) completed a Red Cross certified CPR training course. Plans are now in place to acquire an AED for Laney-Manion to assist in the event of emergencies that require CPR.
- On November 1, 2018, the department hosted Dr. Mary Lowe Good, a 1990 distinguished UCA alum, for an alumni seminar. Dr. Good met with students during a lunch prior to her seminar. Her seminar included her sharing her experiences as an undergraduate at then Arkansas State Teachers College, insights from her 60 y career in academe and industry, and her advice to current undergraduate chemistry majors.

### Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Three faculty members (Bernard Chen, Mahmut Karakaya, and Sinan Kockara) represented our department at the 2018 Arkansas INBRE Conference in Fayetteville.
- Olcay Kursun's undergraduate student Kima Brown presented a poster at the 2018 Arkansas INBRE Conference in Fayetteville (title "Deep Learning Based Assessment of Physiological Measurements for Neurological Disorders: A Case Study on Gait in Parkinson's Disease").
- Mahmut Karakaya presented a paper/poster entitled "Deep Learning Frameworks for Off-Angle Iris Recognition" at the 9th IEEE International Conference on Biometrics: Theory, Applications, and Systems (BTAS 2018), which was held in Los Angeles, CA.
- Mahmut Karakaya's undergraduate students Zeqing Dong and Olufisayo Ayodele presented a poster at the 2018 Arkansas INBRE Conference in Fayetteville (title "Retina Segmentation for Diabetic Retinopathy Detection Using Smartphones").
- Mahmut Karakaya served as a judge at the 2018 Arkansas INBRE Conference in Fayetteville.
- Tansel Halic's students (Jake Farmer, Doga Demirel, and Berk Cetinsaya) presented four posters at the 2018 Arkansas INBRE Conference in Fayetteville (titles: "Virtual Fundamentals of

Arthroscopic Surgery Training (VFAST)", "Virtual Arthroscopic Tear Diagnosis and Evaluation Platform (VATDEP)", "Partition-Based Optimization Model for Generative Anatomy Modeling Language", and "Design and Development of a Preliminary Virtual Endoluminal Surgical Simulator (VESS) for Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) Surgery").

- A team led by Chenyi Hu visited a Computer Science program in California for its ABET re-accreditation during November 4-6.

## Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- No report.

## Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- A paper titled "What are you looking at? Shape thinking and eye-tracking," written by former graduate student Kayla Waters, current graduate Wesley Martsching, and Dr. Jason Martin was accepted for the 2019 RUME Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- Dr. Arrigo was asked to join the Editorial Board of the Journal Symmetry.
- Dr. Garimella accepted an invitation to be on the Scientific Committee from the 2019 International Conference in Engineering and Applied Math (ICAEA '19) at Lisbon, Portugal.
- Last week, Dr. Garimella attended the Reimagining Mathematics Education Conference at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey.
- On November 10, Dr. Jimmy Fetterly will be taking three students to the *MAKO Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference* at Missouri State University. Students presenting are Monica Davanzo (mentored by Dr. Yinlin Dong), Demetrius Moore (mentored by Dr. Dr. Fetterly), and Johnathan Zluticky (mentored by Dr. Jeff Beyerl).
- MA Self Study, conducted in July 2018, was successful. Last week, the Department submitted a response to the external review report to the Provost Office.
- Dr. Garth Johnson, Ms. Loi Booher and Ms. Kayla Waters submitted an article for the College Corner in the next issue of the ACTM Newsletter. The article is about using technology for multitasking financial problems.

## Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- No report.

## STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No report.

## Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- No Report