

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – March 4, 2019

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, March 4, 2019. 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. Guests: Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer; Brian Corbin, Director of Transfer Services, Vicky Summers, Associate Registrar; Jacob Held, Director of UCA Core; and Whit Ables, Transfer Coordinator.

### Agenda Items:

1. Brian Corbin, Vicky Summers, Jacob Held, and Whit Ables led a discussion on transfer services and their plans for streamlining the student transfer process.
2. February 18, 2019 minutes approved for posting.
3. Dean Addison discussed plans for Bear Necessities Day on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Other Items/Announcements

- Aimee Poynter distributed phone-a-thon sheets and briefly explained process. Sheets need to be turned in by end of day Thursday to be included in Day of Giving totals.
- Brent Hill distributed Workload Task Force direct duties list and asked for any changes or additions by end of the day Tuesday.

### Chair Reports:

#### Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Final negotiations for hiring an Aquatic Ecologist are underway.

#### Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Emre Celebi served as an area chair in the 14th International Conference on Computer Vision Theory and Applications (VISAPP 2019) held during February 25–27, 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic.

#### Geography

Dr. Stephen O'Connell reported:

- Junior Environmental Science-P&A major Lillian McDaniel presented a poster titled "Fire history of an unlogged shortleaf pine forest in the Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas" at the Posters at the Capitol event on February 20.

- Stephen O'Connell presented a session on digital mapping and the use of ArcGIS Online in investigations of the Mississippi River at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual FUSION: Arts & Humanities Teacher Education Workshop at the Clinton Library.

## Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Dr. George Bratton, retired Associate Professor of Mathematics, contributed a matching gift of \$1000 to the Math Development Foundation Fund for the 2019 Day of Giving. The Department raised \$1000 from its faculty and staff to match the gift.
- Dr. Yinlin Dong, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, attended SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) International Conference on Computational Science and Engineering on Thursday, Feb 28, in Spokane, WA. He presented a talk, "A Deformation Based Adaptive Moving Grid Method" in the Numerical PDE Session of the Conference.
- Drs. Yinlin Dong and Yeil Kwon received summer stipends from the University Research Council to work on their projects for the upcoming summer.
- Ms. Lisa Skultety accepted the TT Position in Mathematics Education will join UCA this fall. She will receive her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign at the end of this spring.
- Search is underway to fill two permanent lecturer positions in mathematics. So far, we have received 34 applications. Initial screening of applications will begin this week.
- On February 21, Dr. Todd Abel coordinated a Math Night at Jim Stone Elementary School. Approximately 150 students and parents attended. Eight UCA undergraduates and two UCA math graduate students volunteered as a service activity. Participants engaged in a number of activities encouraging problem-solving and mathematical thinking.
- Students from Dr. Fetterly's classes (MATH 4301 Secondary Mathematics Methods & MATH 4335 Concepts of Advanced Mathematics) assisted Ruth Doyle Middle School (RDMS) with their STEM night along with others from the community. The evening was filled with mathematical action and excitement as approximately 500 participants visited the event. Parents and students from RDMS experienced mathematical activities that emphasized proportional reasoning and algebraic thinking with manipulatives and rich real-world context.
- UCA Mathematics Department hosted a regional ACTM mathematics contest on Saturday, March 2, 2019. UCA was one of 11 regional testing sites around the state. Eighty-three students from eight nearby secondary schools competed in one of six subjects: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Trig-Precalculus, Calculus, and Statistics. Dr. Carolyn Pinchback and Mrs. Loi Booher are co-coordinators of the event. The graduate assistants from the department proctored exams and helped with many tasks on Saturday. On April 27, the state contest will be held at UCA. Dr. Charles Watson is the coordinator for the state contest.

## Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Drs. Debra Burris and Jeremy Lusk traveled with 16 students in the Meteorology class to the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman Oklahoma on February 28 - March 2. They learned about computational work to describe lightning as well as the data available from the Mesonet of weather stations located throughout Oklahoma.

## STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- STEM Institute received 3 grants:
  - Thomas Nuttall's Journey across Arkansas and into Oklahoma Cross-curriculum STEM Teaching in the Classroom, Funding Agency: Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Midwest Region Program, Project directors: Dr. Umadevi Garimella (PI) and Dr. Debra Burris (Co-PI), \$24,000.
  - UCA Science in Action IX – South Side and Wonderview, Agency: Arkansas STEM Coalition, Project directors: Dr. Umadevi Garimella (PI), Partners: South Side Bee Branch and Wonderview School districts, \$6,600.
  - UCA Health Science Leadership Career day 2019, Agency: Arkansas STEM Coalition, Project directors: Dr. Umadevi Garimella (PI), \$6,000.
- Presentations at Conference:
  - "Wack-A-Pack" and Expand Explanations of Chemical Change at 2019 STEM INNOVATION SUMMIT: Attended the conference on Feb 21-22, 2019, Presenters: Nicole Martin and Dr. Umadevi Garimella.
- Science night and campus tour support:
  - February 19, 2019 - Collaborated with Academic Outreach to host 58 Greenbrier students, 4 teachers, and 14 administrators/parents.
  - February 28th - STEM Institute support science night at Dove Middle School by having programming of Spheros and Ozobots - 50 students and 25 parents visited our session.
- Collaborations:
  - Central Baptist College Pre-service students visited our STEM Institute resource rooms. They are working with us on their projects.