

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – October 7, 2019

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, October 7, 2019. Stephen Addison presided; members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, and Stephen O'Connell. Members absent: Pat Desrochers.

Agenda Items:

1. Dean Addison led a discussion on the Retirement Incentive Plan that is going before the Board of Trustees. If approved, letters will be sent out to qualified faculty and staff shortly after approval. Employees will have 45 days to consider the proposal and another 7 days after submitting request to revoke it. Chairs are not to ask or give advice to faculty on this process. Please refer questions to Human Resources/TIAA/APERS Teacher's retirement for advice.
2. Dean Addison let Chairs know he will be sending out a letter regarding the Resource Optimization Initiative and what has been done in the CNSM to meet this demand. This initiative will not apply to this year.
3. Ginny Adams led a discussion Meta Majors and Momentum Year. The committee is looking at overlaps between programs so students can stay on track when deciding majors. She plans on meeting with Chairs individually and in pairs to help develop meta majors that will work for the CNSM. There is a need to look at the math requirements for all programs so it can be easily laid out in the UG Bulletin. Work is also being done on development of momentum year requirements which include taking math, writing, and 9 hours in the major. Discussion followed on difficulties for our students to meet this and FYS requirements in their first year.
4. Dean Addison led a discussion on the need to develop a new university model to meet lifetime continuing education needs and working with business partners to develop courses to meet their needs.
5. Dean Addison asked for nominations for various open committee positions that need to be filled including the Diversity Committee, Sabbatical Review Committee, and Study Abroad Committee.

Chair Reports:

Chemistry

Dr. Patrick Desrochers reported:

- Our student ACS chapter was again recognized as an Outstanding chapter by the national American Chemical Society for 2018. This recognition places UCA's chapter in the top 10% of over 1000 student chapters nationwide. This marks the 6th such recognition for UCA's students over the past 7 years. Chapter faculty advisers are Drs. Faith Yarberry and Greg Naumiec.
- STEM Posters at the Capitol is set for February 19, 2020.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Tansel Halic received an NIH grant for his project entitled “Development and Validation of a Virtual Bariatric Endoscopic (ViBE) Simulator”. The grant total is \$694K, whereas the UCA portion is \$244K.
- Mahmut Karakaya attended the 10th IEEE International Conference on Biometrics: Theory, Applications and Systems (BTAS) in Tampa, FL to present a paper (“Gaze-Angle Impact on Iris Segmentation Using CNNs”).

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- 2019 Fall Math Seminar Series have begun, the following presentation have been made so far.
 - Dr. Jimmy Fetterly on “Pedagogical Practices and Pythagoras” (September 4)
 - Dr. Yiel Kwon on, “Alternative Double Shrinkage Empirical Bayesian Estimation for Selected Mean Parameters” (September 18)
 - Dr. Ramesh Garimella gave a seminar presentation entitled “On the solution of of an operator equation.” (On October 2)
 - Dr. Weijiu Liu will present on “Plausible Mathematics behind Violin Playing.” (October 8th)
- Math Club resumed its fall bi-weekly meetings for Fall 2019.
- This academic year, nine new graduate assistants joined the Math Department.
 - Eight are pursuing the MS in Applied and the others joined in the MA Math Education Program.
- Drs. Sharif Mahmood and Yiel Kwon applied for 2020 summer stipends.
- All Math Data Science Faculty members attended Arkansas Center for Data Science (ACDS) / STEM Coalition Workshop on September 19, 2019
- Plans are underway to offer four-hour new precalculus for the very first time in summer 2020.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Dr. Azida Walker travelled with her Introduction to Biophysics course to UA Fayetteville on Friday September 27th to work with the biophysics group there.