

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – December 16, 2019

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, December 16, 2019, Stephen Addison presided.

Members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, and Stephen O'Connell.

Guest: Mathilda Hatfield, CNSM Development Officer, Dr. Jason Martin, Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Agenda Items:

1. November 18, 2019 minutes approved.
2. Dr. Jason Martin addressed council on the need to update the information being used by Academic Advising for the CNSM. Discussion followed and Dean Addison asked Dr. Martin to chair a committee that will work on updating the data sheets used by advising and asked that each department appoint someone to be on the committee. The goal is to have updated information by mid-April.
3. Dean Addison distributed a recent enrollment report and encouraged everyone to keep up their recruiting efforts. He asked that information about potential recruiting events be shared so we can make sure the CNSM is represented.
4. Ginny Adams updated council on work being done by the Meta-majors/Momentum Year committee. She asked that chairs work together and send in proposals for CNSM meta-majors by the beginning of the Spring semester so she can take them to the next meeting.
5. Dean Addison led a discussion on the student complaint process and asked that this information be added to course syllabi and discussed on the first day of class. The process is outlined in the student handbook. He asked that we let our students know they have options and that our faculty need to be accessible to our students.
6. The next CNSM Advisory Board meeting has been set for February 28th. The theme of this meeting will be Student Success.
7. Day of Giving has been scheduled for March 7th. Mathilda Hatfield distributed a report of last year's giving and updated council on current plans for this year. Discussion followed on what funds to highlight in social media and press releases.

Other Items:

1. Mathilda Hatfield will be traveling to Denver, Colorado in January for a conference and is planning to meet with alumni in the area.
2. Pat Desrochers reported that 17 posters from UCA were submitted for Posters at the Capitol and 6 have been selected to go.
3. Carl Frederickson reported that there is an Academic Council meeting on Thursday and that we put in a request to waive the life science requirement for Engineering Physics BS.
4. Ginny Adams asked for representative from each department to serve on the scholarship committee.

Chair Reports:

Chemistry

Dr. Patrick Desrochers reported:

- Faith Yarberry, Marsha Massey, and Makenzie Long were awarded \$650,000 for 5 years by the NSF S-STEM program to establish a scholarship and mentorship program for Arkansas high school students from economically disadvantaged and underrepresented groups in STEM disciplines. These students will be recruited from Arkansas high schools to attend UCA and complete 4-year BS degrees in Chemistry. The project also will test the role of immersive SI experiences, including these and other students, to improve student retention and graduation rates.
- Mary Good (BS 1950, Distinguished UCA Alumna 1990) passed away November 20, 2019 at the age of 88. Dr. Good was born in Grapevine, TX, and moved with her school-teacher parents to Arkansas. She completed her BS degree in chemistry from then Arkansas State Teacher's College in 1950 and followed this with a doctoral degree in inorganic chemistry from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville at age 24. Dr. Good was a research pioneer in Mössbauer spectroscopy, applying it to ruthenium and iron complexes used in catalysis. She followed her career as a teacher scholar (at LSU and UNO) with administrative positions in industry including AlliedSignal (N.J.). She was an especially successful role model for women in science: the first woman to receive the American Chemical Society's (ACS) prestigious Priestley Medal, the first woman to chair the board of the National Science Foundation, the second female president of the ACS, and served administrations of four U.S. presidents (Carter, Reagen, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton). In the Clinton administration she served as under-Secretary (and as acting-secretary) for the U.S. Department of Commerce. In that role, she helped lead the Clean Car Initiative, focusing on hybrid gas-electric cars, and she championed government investment in research to develop hybrid power. Dr. Good ended her career in STEM as the Dean Emeritus of the Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology, retiring from that role in 2011.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Two MA Mathematics Education students and two MS Applied Mathematics students will join the Math Department in Spring 2020.
- The sixth annual Calculus Tournament was held on November 21st in the Math Resources Center. A total of 21 students grouped in 7 teams participated. The winning team this year was the team of Sarah Thiele, Kamilla Akhmetshina, and Daulet Turgambayev. The event was organized by Dr. Jeff Beyerl.
- A paper, "Feedforward Boundary Control for the Regulation of a Passive and Diffusive Scalar in 2-D Unsteady Flows", authored by Weijiu Liu has been accepted for publication in the Technical Notes and Correspondence section of the IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control.
- Dr. Ramesh Garimella reviewed a paper "The Invariant Subspace Problem for Rank-One Perturbation" by Adi Tcaciuc appeared in Duke Journal of Mathematics for the American Mathematical Society Reviews.
- A blog, "Reflecting on Your Own Instruction", written by Dr. Nesrin Sahin appeared on Teaching Matters@UCA.

- Last month, Ms. Whitney Worley successfully defended her doctoral dissertation in applied statistics at Baylor University.
- Dr. Lisa Skultety applied for the Service, Teaching and Research (STaR) Program for early career mathematics educators working at institutions of higher education.
- Dr. Sharif Mahmood received 2020 URC Summer Stipend.

Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- The UCA Chapter of the Society of Physics Students has been recognized as an Outstanding Chapter by the national office. The UCA SPS Chapter has earned this honor for 6 years in a row.