

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
Minutes of Virtual Council of Chairs Meeting  
March 15, 2021

All members present.

Agenda Items:

- March 1, 2021 minutes approved with minor revisions.
- Admitted Student Days Planning. These events are designed to encourage admitted students to come to UCA and meet with Department representatives and to register for classes. Our sessions will be on Mondays due to conflicts with other events in our college. Dean Addison will address the whole group and then have a student panel for a question-and-answer session. Discussion followed.
- Discussion on barriers to metamajors such as first year seminar requirements and lack of math preparation of incoming students due to remote instruction.
- Faculty are not getting notifications from the registrar when students withdraw from courses. Dean Addison will look into finding a resolution but for now have faculty pay attention to if students fall off of blackboard.
- Please let Dayna know if you will be out for Spring Break. Discussion followed on number of students wanting to receive COVID vaccinations.
- Ginny Adams has a meeting with Grant Accounting and Jeremy Bruner tomorrow to discuss processes and how we will do things going forward. Ginny is going to advocate for more communication from grant accounting so we have the information we need to complete tasks correctly. Dean Addison has apprised the Provost of the situation and she will be following up on it as well.

Other Items

- Dean Addison shared current enrollment numbers and anticipates full classes in the Fall.
- Encourage students to apply for AURS / SWN awards. The deadlines are this week.
- Grace Zimmerman is our CNSM Outstanding Student this year. The application pool was really strong this year and an announcement will go out soon congratulating all our nominees.
- Foundation scholarship awards are due soon and Ginny will be sending those out to the various committees soon.
- Have faculty look at their start-up budgets as these budgets do not roll and there is no way of knowing if funds will be available next year.
- Rekey of Lewis Science and Conway Corp will take place Wednesday of Spring Break. Faculty needing to swap keys can do so Wednesday morning or drop by Physical Plant on Thursday or Friday. A second key swap is scheduled for Monday morning after Spring Break in LSC 105.

## Chair Reports:

### Emre Celebi, Computer Science

- Emre Celebi served on an expert panel on Artificial Intelligence in Dermatology at the Photonics in Dermatology and Plastic Surgery Conference, organized as part of SPIE Photonics West 2021 (March 6-11). Celebi also gave an invited talk entitled "Dermoscopy Image Analysis in the Age of Deep Learning."
- Computer Science alumnus Brian Eubanks has recently received a full-time job offer for an Embedded and Firmware Developer position from the Intel Corporation, the world's largest semiconductor chip manufacturer. Since his graduation in December 2020, Brian has continued his collaboration with two Computer Engineering faculty members (Dr. Ahmad Patooghy and Dr. Olcay Kursun), contributing to two research projects on developing reliable embedded systems.

### Stephen O'Connell, Geography

- The 2021 Arkansas STEM Posters @ the Capitol virtual event was live online on Tuesday, March 9. A total of 56 students from 10 universities presented 32 virtual posters during the live sessions from 10am - 2pm on a dedicated YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/ARSTEMPosters>). The sessions had over 330 views during the live sessions and more than 100 since that time. UCA students from Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science participated.

### Ramesh Garimella, Mathematics

- Drs. Todd Abel (PI), Krista Peppers (Biology), Mark Doderer (CS) and R. Garimella (Math) received the 2021 Academic Enrichment for the Gifted and Talented in Summer (AEGIS) Program grant from ADE to conduct a week-long summer interactive biology, statistics and programming activities for 8th-11th grades in central Arkansas during the week of June 14-18.
- Dr. Carolyn Pinchback and Dr. Elson Bihm virtually presented "Using Children's Literature in Building Inclusion in the Classroom" at the February 2021 meeting of NCTM.
- Dr. Lisa Skultety and STEMteach math major Audrey Ferrari recorded and uploaded a virtual presentation for the NCTM 2021 Virtual National Conference titled "Acknowledging and Addressing 'Math Trauma'". Also, Dr. Lisa Skultety recorded and uploaded another presentation "Number Explosion: Using Number Sense to Prepare Students for Algebra" with Melissa Kings, a graduate student and middle school math teacher in Little Rock, for the same conference.
- Dr. James Fetterly with STEMteach majors, Emma Davis and Willaim Paul Elliot, will virtually present a talk titled "Mathematical problem posing: Developing deeper understanding." at the 2021 NCTM Conference. Also, Dr. Fetterly will present another paper virtually with Jacob Sisson titled "Meaningful mathematics: Fostering student engagement." at the same conference.
- Ms. Haley Hurley will give a virtual departmental seminar presentation titled "the Process of Creating Algorithmic Questions" on March 17 at 2 PM.
- Dr. Dong served as a judge for the Graduate Research Symposium at University of West Alabama on March 9.
- The following curricular changes are official starting Fall 2021:
  - Math ACT 27 or higher has been added as a prerequisite for Calculus I (Math 1496)
  - The following have been added to the ancillary requirements for the data science track:
    - Old requirements: MIS 4355 and MIS 4380
    - New requirements: MIS 4355 and MIS 4380 or CSCI 1470 and CSCI 1480 or ECON 2320 and ECON 2321 or BIOL 1440 and BIOL 1441 or INSU 3324 and ECON 2320 (or ECON 2321)

- A curricular change proposal, de-emphasizing the calculus and accentuating finite mathematics in the description of Math 1395, is making its way up the process. The proposal is supported by the College of Business.

Carl Frederickson, Physics

- The UCA Robotics team competed in their second skills contest on Saturday March 13th.
- The review of applications for the open tenure-track position in engineering starts 03/15/2021. There is a good pool of applicants.

Mathilda Hatfield, CNSM Director of Development

- Thank you for your participation in Day of Giving, an updated giving report will be coming out once information has been verified.