

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – February 2, 2015

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, and Brent Hill.

Agenda Items:

- Dean Addison deferred review of the January 21, 2015 minutes.
- Dr. Desrochers gave an update on the Posters at the Capitol event to be held on February 11, 2015 at the Arkansas State Capitol.
- Dayna Bilderback gave an update on transitioning the CNSM web pages to the new mobile friendly format. Dean Addison asked that the departments start work on getting their pages transitioned so that the college has a uniform and updated look.
- Dean Addison announced that President Courtway is holding a new form of town meetings and will be visiting with each of the colleges individually. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and he encourages everyone to attend. The CNSM meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th, at 3:00pm in the Wingo boardroom.
- Dean Addison asked that the chairs start reviewing their summer course offering. He encourages everyone to offer courses that have a chance of making but said that the summer is a great time to try out some new things.
- Dean Addison reminded the council that sabbatical requests are due to department chairs by February 12 and URC proposals are due to the department chairs by February 16th.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison asked that chairs encourage their faculty to apply for summer stipend funds because it is a good student training opportunity.
- Dean Addison reported that he has a meeting with a potential donor on February 12th that is interested in setting up a scholarship and endowing rooms in the new science building.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Berdie Eubank has been working on the Biology web pages and has transitioned them to the new mobile format.

Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- Department of nursing will no longer require CHEM 2450 for its majors. Rationale given was that this was an impediment to recruitment because they were one of only a few programs requiring two semesters of chemistry.

- Mark Woods (BS Chemistry from UCA in 1981) presented a seminar January 30, 2015 entitled “The Rebirth of Petrochemicals and Plastics in North America: A \$100 Billion Dollar Bet on High Crude Oil Prices.” Mark is president of Ethylene Strategies International based in Houston, TX, where he provides market consulting research on ethylene futures and negotiates ethylene contracts for consumers and producers of this important natural gas byproduct. Mark provided a recorded alumni video at Buffalo Alumni Hall summarizing his career and the importance of his UCA experience.

Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No report

Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Steve O'Connell and I submitted a grant application for \$5,000 to Esri. It is for three, all day introduction GIS workshops around the state and a fourth advanced workshop at UCA. It's designed primarily for middle school teachers, although some of the AP Human Geography high school teachers want access as well. The Esri funding should cover up to 12 teachers per workshop, and the Arkansas Geographic Alliance will cover up to 8 more for a total of 20 per workshop.
- The UCA Geography Club printed T-shirts for sale, \$15. They are either purple lettering on a gray T or white lettering on a purple T. They say: Central Arkansas Geography Established 1927.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No report

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Dr. Garimella will attend a PD Provider Institute 1: NGSS Science and Engineering Practices 4, 6, and 7 on February 17-20, 2015, Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, California.
- Institute specialists are being trained by the ADE on NGSS K-12 – Next week – planning to offer free summer institute.
- Received - Commitment to Excellence grant for \$6,600 for Hector SD and Mt. Vernon SD– purchased robots and chemicals \$3,000 each school district.

Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- William Slaton along with Asami Nishikawa (a student here when the work was completed) have published a paper titled, “Aeroacoustic response of coaxial wall-mounted Helmholtz resonators in a low-speed wind tunnel” in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.