

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – March 2, 2015

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, March 2, 2015. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, and Brent Hill. Absent: Uma Garimella.

Agenda Items:

- Minutes of February 2, 2015 meeting were approved with minor revisions.
- Dean Addison reminded chairs that position requests were due to the Provost by April 1st. He asked that chairs turn in their requests to him by Spring Break.
- Dean Addison informed chairs that the student research fund was dwindling fast and encourage everyone to get proposals submitted in the next few days.
- Dean Addison asked that chairs make sure reassign time is accurately submitted in Digital Measures and to continue to encourage their faculty to update Digital Measures as things happen.
- Dean Addison asked chairs to encourage faculty to stay pro-active and submit proposals to Sponsored Programs as quickly as possible to account for the delayed processing time while Beryline is out.
- Dean Addison asked chairs to report recurring or safety issues in the classrooms. The sooner we are aware of issues the sooner we can get someone working on them. He noted that chairs in LSC 168, 170, and 172 were still under warranty and new pins would be installed during Spring Break and Larry Lawrence is working on a solution for the broken chairs in LSC 102 and Laney.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison reminded chairs to get reason for making grade changes especially for W or WF changes as these have Federal Financial Aid implications.
- Dean Addison reminded chairs that student complaints need to be addressed promptly and relevant materials forwarded as needed.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on UCA Online and how it will impact the CNSM.
- Ginny Adams gave an update on the Outstanding Student Award, the CNSM Poster Symposium, and Girl Power in STEM events.
- Carl Frederickson led a discussion on computers in the classrooms that needed updates on the Smart Software. Current pricing for updates is \$54/year per license or \$123 for a 3-year license.
- Dean Addison reminded chairs that it is a violation of Academic Affairs to announce that textbooks can be purchased somewhere other than the bookstore. Discussion followed regarding issues with availability and service at the bookstore.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- John Choinski was awarded a Fulbright Grant to study in Botswana.
- Eduoard Niyonsaba won the 2015 David S. Bruce Outstanding Undergraduate Abstract Award from the American Physiological Society. He is a Biochemistry major who has been conducting research with Dr. Brent Hill for the past 3 years. He will be presenting his research the end of the month in Boston, MA at an international conference.
- Reid and Ginny Adams took several graduate students to present at the American Fisheries Society.

Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- STEM RC
- URC Proposals

Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- On February 28, Dr. Yu Sun and her students, Reese Childers, Oliver Roundtree, and Joseph Hilton of the Computer Science Department, in collaboration with the UCA STEM Institute offered a free robotics camp to 5th-8th grade students. The camp was sponsored by a NASA EPSCoR grant. In this camp, Dr. Sun and her group introduced the basics of robotics and taught students how to construct, program, and control robots. After that, students worked on their projects and made their own programs to control robots successfully including dancing, moving, color detection, and voice recognition.
- Dr. Sinan Kockara received a 2015 Summer Stipend.

Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Jeff Allender attended the conference for State Geographic Alliance Coordinators at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C. The head of the Education Division at NGS told him that the frameworks and curriculum published for the new 7th grade geography course may be the most advanced middle-school course in the country. They also promised substantial help, materials, and support in preparing our middle-school teachers for the “new” course. The required course may be either one semester or a whole year and several larger districts have already contacted him indicating they plan to give the course a full year.
- Steve O’Connell and Jeff Allender have received a \$5,000 grant from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to conduct three, all day introduction to GIS workshops for middle and high school teachers across the state and one advanced workshop at UCA. Due to changes in the K-12 curriculum released by the State Board of Education, attendance to the workshops will be limited to only middle school teachers or district Social Studies Curriculum Coordinators. The workshops will be conducted in May.
- Geography faculty submitted two proposals to the URC:
 - Freight Transportation Planning and Regional Development in the Paso Del Norte Bi-National Metropolitan Area submitted by Michael Yoder.

- Developing and Conducting an Economic/Participant Survey for the King Biscuit Blues Festival; Helena, AR submitted by Steve O'Connell and Jeff Allender.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- An offer for a tenure-track position in math education has been accepted. Another two offers, one in math education and the other in applied statistics, are being considered.
- Dr. Danny Arrigo recently published a textbook titled, *Symmetry Analysis of Differential Equations – An Introduction*. The book was published by Wiley in 2015. The book presents an accessible approach to the uses of symmetry methods in solving both ordinary differential equations (ODEs) and partial differential equations (PDEs). Providing comprehensive coverage, the book fills a gap in the literature by discussing elementary symmetry concepts and invariance, including methods for reducing the complexity of ODEs and PDEs in an effort to solve the associated problems.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No Report

Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- Azida Walker and 7 students from the bio-physics course will be traveling to UA Fayetteville this weekend to work in the bio-physics laboratory. Fayetteville will be paying for hotels this weekend.
- Debra Burris will be taking 9 students from the meteorology course to the Storms Laboratory at the University of Oklahoma in April.
- Andrew Mason received a 2015 Summer Stipend award.
- Nine students have been nominated for the Noyce Summer Intern positions for this summer.