

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – April 6, 2015

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, April 6, 2015. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, and Brent Hill.

Agenda Items:

- Minutes of March 3, 2015 meeting were approved with minor revisions.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on CNSM position requests being sent forward to the Provost.
- Dean Addison asked that Capitol Requests be turned in to him by 8 a.m. on April 27th. A discussion followed on how to complete the request form.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on the new wait list system in Banner and issues regarding freshman availability of class and prerequisite checking.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison asked Chairs to send a copy of the completed application package on new hires to the Dean's Office for the personnel file since the initial hiring paperwork is downloaded in PeopleAdmin. He also reminded Chairs to continue to send copies of completed PAF's for the files as he relies on this information being up to date.
- Dean Addison announced that Don Perry from the Chemistry Department is a finalist in this year's Faculty Excellence Awards for Research.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Undergrad, Nick Ledbetter, got into a NSF, summer REU program at Kansas State. One of 10-12 students out of 165 applicants.
- Steve Karafit asked to speak about Learning Catalytics and making lecture videos at the Arkansas Distance Education Conference.

Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- 6 faculty and 13 students presented their research at the National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Denver March 22-25. Profs. Dooley, Isom, Kelley, Taylor, Yang, and Yarberrry escorted the students. Representatives of the student ACS chapter accepted a plaque honoring the UCA chapter as an outstanding chapter for the third consecutive year.
- Lei Yang presented a brief talk of his work "Metal Organic Frameworks and CO₂ Capture" at the Arkansas State Science Fair Award Banquet, April 3, 2015.
- Karen Steelman presented a talk entitled "Program Archaeological Chemistry: Studying Ancient Cave Paintings using Analytical Methods" at the Central Arkansas Section's March Meeting held at Little Rock Central High School, March 16, 2015

- Jerry Manion award winner identified by the department and will be announced at the department's spring picnic.
- Lori Isom served as a panelist at Science Café at Kings in Conway dealing with the topic "The Science of Science Fiction", March 17, 2015.
- Department is asking UD core to help plan for its majors. ID those courses early so that we can allow for them in our curriculum and plan to take the necessary LD prerequisites.
- Don Perry earned three years of support from the latest NSF AR EPSCoR award. He was one of the principle authors of this year's submission.

Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- On Saturday, April 4, Yu Sun and her three undergraduate research students (Reese Childers, Oliver Roundtree, and Joseph Hiliton) conducted a free robotics camp for 5th-8th graders from central Arkansas. The Department of Computer Science and the UCA STEM Institute organized the event jointly. In this camp, students were introduced to the basics of robotics and were taught how to construct, program, and control robots. Then, students worked on their projects and made their own programs to control robots successfully including dancing, moving, color detection, and voice recognition. The event was sponsored by NASA EPSCoR grant.
- A former Computer Science major, Jason Barnes, currently a fourth year PhD student at Washington University in St. Louis, gave a seminar on April 2nd on "Homomorphic Encryption Algorithms." Jason also shared his thoughts on pursuing PhD program in Computer Science and life as a doctoral student.

Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Matt Connolly gave a short talk on his research at the State Science Fair banquet this past Friday.
- Jeff Allender has been asked to be a moderator and round-table discussant on Livable Cities: The Urban Environment as part of the Leaders of the World Conference being held on campus later this week.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- On April 10th and 11th, the 77th Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma-Arkansas Section of MAA will be held in Tulsa, OK. Dr. Jason Martin and Dr. Mike Oehrtman from OSU will conduct a faculty workshop entitled, CLEAR Calculus Coherent Labs to Enhance Accessible and Rigorous Calculus.
- Cyrus Koch and Katie Burden, UCA undergraduate math education majors, mentored by Dr. Jason Martin, will give presentations entitled, A Study of the Effects of Virtual Manipulatives and Animations for Calculus Labs.
- The Arkansas State Mathematics contest, sponsored by ACTM, will be held here at UCA on Saturday, April 25th. About 300 high school students from across the state are expected to participate in taking exams in Calculus, Geometry, Statistics, Trig/Pre-Calculus, Algebra I, and Algebra II. Trophies will be awarded at the end of the contest. Dr. Charles Watson serves as director.
- Dr. Jason Martin and Dr. Clarence Burg will give a presentation entitled, A Perspective on Status of Calculus I at UCA, on Wednesday, April 15th, at 2:00pm in MCST 220.

- The second mathematics education position has been offered to Dr. Jimmy Fetterly and he has accepted. Negotiations are taking place for the third position in applied statistics.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Search for Mathematics Specialist was successful: Ms. Cara Cates from Vilonia School district will be joining us in July. We might hire her as extra help for month of June.
- STEM Institute science specialist, Ms. Minnietta Ready, is also retiring due to health issue. We are conducting a new search for that position.
- STEM Power for Girls, a grant funded program, to host one-day STEM activities for girls. We will host one on May 22, 2015. Working with Dr. Ginny Adams.
- Assisting Geography to host several geography sessions to implement new 7th grade social studies curriculum.
- Developing state wide professional development training for understanding and implementing new K-8 science standards. Will be offering several of them in June and July.
- Planning to apply for New MSP grant (2016--2019).

Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- Dr. Debra Burris and 8 students are scheduled to travel to the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory on Thursday morning. They have been warned that there is the chance of severe weather that day and may have to delay their travel plans.
- Three physics majors, Brandon Rogers, Gerard Munyazikwiye, and Nicholas Frederickson, will be presenting their Honors Theses on Friday, April 24th in the student center.
- Eight students have been selected for Noyce Summer Intern positions.

Student	Possible Mentor	Department
Alex Moore	Ben Cash	Biology
Morgan Sweere	Donald Perry	Chemistry
David Addison	Danny Arrigo	Mathematics
Grace Delph	Jason Martin	Mathematics
Bryce Johnson	Lei Yang	Chemistry
Ashley Jacobson	Mindy Farris	Biology
Avery Raspberry	N/A	Biology
Brandon Miller	Balraj Menon	Physics and Astronomy

- An organizational meeting with the students is scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 5pm. A second meeting will be set up with the mentors once they have been finalized. Each mentor will receive at \$1,500 stipend for the summer.
- There are currently 2 applications for the Noyce Scholarship. These are available for students in the STEMteach program. The scholarships will cover up to 15 credit hours and room and board equivalent to a double room in Bear Hall and the unlimited meal plan in the cafeteria.