

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – May 4, 2015

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, May 4, 2015. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Brent Hill, and Michael Yoder (for Jeff Allender). Members absent: Jeff Allender and Uma Garimella.

Agenda Items:

- Minutes of April 6, 2015 meeting were approved with minor revisions.
- Dean Addison announced that Equity/Merit would be awarded in \$1,000 and \$600 increments; this is in addition to the 1% COLA that is on the BOT Agenda. He asked that Chairs submit faculty merit rankings to him by noon on Wednesday, April 8th along with signed copies of faculty evaluations. Dean Addison will address faculty concerns at the opening faculty meeting in the fall.
- Dean Addison informed Chairs that due to large numbers on the waiting lists, the Provost is approving faculty lines and wants additional sections open immediately. The Dean asked the chairs to keep an eye on enrollments and let him know of needs as soon as possible.
- Dean Addison asked Chairs to begin using the new Grade Change Form when submitting grade changes. The new form requires that the reason for the grade change be checked and that the date X Grade work is completed be filled in. The Dean also asked the chairs to discuss their WP/WF policy in their syllabi and not to deviate from it.
- Dean Addison announced that new PAF forms are available that no longer require social security numbers and asked Chairs to begin using the new forms immediately.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison led a discussion on faculty loads and the need to find a college-level consensus on how to account for research hours.
- Dr. Adams announced that the 2015 Girls of Power in STEM event will include 200+ eighth and ninth grade girls and she still had to turn away over 200 students.
- Dr. Adams announced that summer research proposal rankings are in and the award decision will be made shortly.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- URC Research Proposals were awarded to Drs. Naylor, Gifford, and Marian. Dr. Marian was also awarded an AR INBRE Summer Faculty Research Grant.

Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- Three students were honored at the ACS local section banquet at UALR on April 21, 2015.

- Sergio Perez was honored at the 2014-2015 Jerry Manion Award winner.
- Karen Steelman attended the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in San Francisco on April 15, 2015, and presented a paper entitled, "Discovering Hidden Layers with X-Ray Vision: New Applications of pXRF to Rock Art Studies" in the Rock Art Interest Group sponsored session.
- Karen Steelman and several of our female chemistry majors helped with the Girls of Power in STEM workshop on April 24, 2015.

Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No Report

Geography

Dr. Yoder reported:

- Dr. Matt Connolly presented a paper at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) Conference in Chicago the week of April 20. He was elected to the Board of the Water Resources Specialty Group of the AAG, a specialty group with some 600 members. He also is a member of the Jewel Moore Nature Reserve Committee, which is carrying out a service-learning project with students of the Communications Program to produce signage for the reserve.
- Dr. Ellen Hostetter presented a paper at AAG in Chicago, and was the organizer of the session.
- Dr. Stephen O'Connell presented a paper at AAG in Chicago. He was awarded an ESRI Grant for GIS workshops for high school teachers through the Arkansas Geographic Alliance. The workshops begin this month.
- Dr. Michael Yoder received a URC Grant to conduct fieldwork in June on cargo transportation infrastructure in the El Paso and Ciudad Juárez bi-national metropolitan area. He also produced a paper in April on suburban sprawl in small cities of Arkansas, an invited paper by the Arkansas Journal of Social Change and Public Service of the Bowen Law School at UALR that is currently in press.
- Three students presented posters at the CNSM Student Research Symposium in the HPER Center on April 17. This is new for students of the Department of Geography, as they previously presented papers at the College of Liberal Arts Student Research Symposium.
- Plans are underway to take students to the Annual Meeting of the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG) in San Antonio in November.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No Report

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No Report

Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- Dr. William Slaton and the SPS Officers, President Max Milan, Vice President Catie Mason, Secretary Tony Bertram, Treasurer Lucus Ratz, and Design & Build Committee Chair Seth Thomas attended the SPS Zone 10 meeting at the University of Southern Mississippi on April

17 and 18, 2015. The students made presentations on the demonstrations they have designed and are using in outreach. Dr. Slaton gave a presentation on the Google Hangout Seminar series that has run this year and generated a lot of interest from other SPS chapters. Two students presented research posters at the meeting. Next year's Zone 10 meeting will be held at UCA and is in the planning stages now.

- SPS students presented a demonstration show at the Arkansas School for the Deaf on April 21. Tony Bertram, Lucas Ratz, and John Ferrier along with Dr. William Slaton presented demonstrations that have been developed using a Future Faces of Physics grant they received from the national office of the SPS. As part of the grant, the SPS presented the students and their teacher, Ms. Sheri Medlock, with materials to develop their own demos with a challenge to make them even better and bigger.
- Drs. Rahul Mehta and Azida Walker travelled with 2 students to visit researchers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas May 3-6. Dr. Walker and the students travel expenses were covered by an ASGC travel grant through UAMS.