

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – October 13, 2014

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, October 13, 2014. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Ben Cash, Clarence Burg (for Ramesh Garimella), Pat Desrochers, and Carl Frederickson. Members absent: Ramesh Garimella and Uma Garimella.

Agenda Items:

- Minutes from the September 15, 2014 meeting were approved.
- Dean Addison announced that Dr. Rick Scott, Dean of the Schedler Honors College, will attend the next meeting of the council to discuss the Departmental Honors / Exemplary Studies program. He asked the chairs to bring a copy of their departmental requirements to the meeting and be prepared to discuss way to get more students involved in the program.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on Student Appeals and Academic Integrity Violations. He passed out copies of the current student handbook and board policies and emphasized that if a faculty member believes there is a violation then they must report it using the proper guidelines. Dean Addison will revise the CNSM Student Grade Appeal Policy and Procedure to align with the current student handbook.
- Dean Addison thanked chairs for their participation in the student recruiting events held across the state. He stated that the effort has gone really well and that we are seeing really good students enter our programs.
- G. Adams led a discussion on Digital Measures. She announced that the “Other” category will go away on October 20th but the information can be moved to another location before then. She also told chairs that the Outstanding Items report could be used to show old records that are missing data and will send out instructions on how to run the report. Dean Addison stated that there were still several administrative assignment errors and that he deleted them from the annual report. G. Adams will work with any faculty that are having issues navigating through Digital Measures.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison reminded chairs that both Spring 2015 and Summer 2015 schedules needed to be completed in Banner by October 20th in preparation for advance registration. He also reminded chairs to double check their course fees and advised that instructions will be sent out as to how to run the ARGOS report to check on the fees.
- P. Desrochers led a discussion on the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts request to present at the upcoming Posters at the Capital. The request was denied; Dean Addison will notify the ASMSA.
- Dean Addison announced that he should have a decision on the Interim Biology Chair position by next week. He has met with the DPAC and received mixed support for the two candidates. He will meet with both of the candidates and the Provost before announcing his decision.
- Dean Addison announced that work on the Lewis Science Center roof has begun. He cautioned everyone to pay attention to blocked doorways due to the constructions zones.

- Dean Addison reported that the college's SBAC proposal was submitted and that we currently have 8 FTE positions being covered by non-permanent faculty so the requests were ranked:
 1. Position Request – STEM Master Teachers.
 2. Positions for Continuing Program Development.
 3. New Programs supported by enrollment.
- Dean Addison reminded chairs to get URC proposals in to Ginny Adams so they can be reviewed and forwarded to the Graduate School.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Cash reported:

- Four students attended a herpetology meeting.
- Angela Elliott resigned her position as Administrative Specialist II in the Biology office. The open position will be posted soon.

Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- Bryce Marquis had a pilot grant funded through the Arkansas (Claude) Pepper Center at UAMS. The grant funds work on detecting biomarkers for aging in tissue samples taken from patients at UAMS.
- Kristin Dooley and Student ACS presented demos at the RSO Fair 9/18/14 and majors fair 10/2/14.
- Lei Yang - 2 publications, *Acta Crystallographic* and *Inorganica Chimica Acta*
 - Ethan P. McMoran, Joshua A. Goodner, Douglas R. Powell and Lei Yang, "Synthesis and Characterization of Cu(II), Zn(II) and Fe(II) Complexes Supported by Pyridylamide Ligands" *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2014, 421, 465-472
 - Joshua A. Goodner, Brandon J. Powers, Douglas R. Powell and Lei Yang, "Di- μ -hydroxy-[N,N'-bis(2,6-dimethylphenyl)pentane-2,4-diiminato]-zinc(II)" *Acta Cryst. E*, 2014, E70, m318-319
- Student ACS Chapter formally rated by the American Chemical Society as an outstanding chapter by national ACS. Karen Steelman, Kristin Dooley, Faith Yarberry advisers.
- Faith Yarberry attended the Noyce workshop in Lincoln, Nebraska on Oct 1-2, 2014.
- Lei Yang from ASTA \$25,448 awarded for his project "Activation of C-H bond by binuclear transition metal complexes with nitrous oxide". The starting date is September 19, 2014 and it's a one-year project.

Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No report

Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Two faculty members will present papers at the Southwest Association of Geographers Conference on October 23-25, 2014 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM.
 - Michael Connolly, "Comparing the Spatial Distribution of Texas Municipal Water Consumption Drivers using Linear and Non-linear Data Reduction Methods"

- Michael Yoder, “Revisiting the Functional Region: Two Case Studies of Cargo Transport and Economic Development”
- A third faculty member, Mary Sue Passe-Smith will co-present a paper with her husband, John Passe-Smith, “Twitter, ‘Hate’ Maps, and Immigrants: The Viability of Mapping Tweets to Identify Anti-Immigrant Places and Sentiments”

Mathematics

Dr. Clarence Burg reported:

- Robert Habiman, a new graduate student in Applied Mathematics, and I attended the 34th Annual Southeastern Atlantic Regional Conference on Differential Equations held at the University of Memphis on October 11 and 12, 2014. Robert presented the results of our research titled "Age-Based Human Population Modeling" which was a system of differential equations modeling the population of each age group consistent with and based on the information provided by the United Nations population database. This research was supported by the Math Department through internal funding during the summer of 2014.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- No report

Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- He and Faith Yarberry attended the Midwest Regional Noyce Conference in Omaha, Nebraska on October 2-3, 2014. The conference is for Robert Noyce project personnel and participants in the Midwestern region, which consists of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. It will be held in Omaha, Nebraska again next year and we will take two of the Noyce scholarship recipients with us then. He would also like to meet with the departments regarding recruiting students for the program.
- The second SPS/Physics Today Google Hangout is tomorrow, October 14th, in LSC 168 on the topic of Mineral Physics. The speaker is Dr. Abby Kavner, a mineral physics research scientist and professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. The hangouts are also available online if you can't attend in person and are getting national recognition through the joint effort with Physics Today.