

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - October 17, 2016

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, October 17, 2016. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Jeff Allender, Bernard Chen, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, and Brent Hill. Members absent: Emre Celebi. Guests: Chris Davis - Director of IST, Aimee Poynter - CNSM Development Officer, John Black, and Jacob Corkran.

Agenda Items:

- Chris Davis, Director of IST, discussed the need to improve network security and his plans to implement Active Directory on campus. Concerns regarding the rollout process, availability of IST staff to address issues, granting of administrative access, and security of sensitive information was discussed.
- Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer, introduced the Faculty and Staff Giving Campaign and invited Chairs to attend the Cupcake & Coffee Kickoff on October 27, 2016.
- Dean Addison led a discussion on the development of an Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Plan in response to House Bill 1534. Discussion followed on how the CNSM can address this issue and get information out to students.
- Minutes from the October 3, 2016 meeting were approved with minor changes.

Other Items:

- Dean Addison reminded chairs that Mid-Tenure reviews will be done through digital measures. He asks that Chairs get the reports to him by January 2nd so they can be finalized by March 15th.
- The Grand Opening of the Conway Corporation Center for Sciences will be at 3pm on October 22nd, as part of UCA's Homecoming festivities. Scott Austin will be doing short planetarium shows from 2-4pm and we need to have other faculty available to conduct tours of the new facility.
- Ginny Adams announced that Girls of Power will be on April 28, 2017. Amber Strahn will be the guest speaker.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- The Biology Department welcomes Samantha Hewett as our new Lab Coordinator.
- A candidate for the Neuroscience position will be on campus this week.
- Alumnus, Dr. Jerod Denton will be giving a talk titled, "Molecular Pharmacology of Inward Rectifier Potassium Channels – Novel Targets for Global Health" on Thursday, October 20th at 11am in Lewis Science Center 100.

- Dr. Ben Rowley will be giving a seminar this week on the importance of getting your flu shot.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- The department's chemical hygiene officer/stockroom manager position was posted.
- The department's annual alumni seminar is X-Period on October 20th. Alex McDonald (BS 2003) is speaking about his role at the Arkansas Crime Lab in Little Rock. His talk is designed to also coincide with the kickoff of National Chemistry Week, where the theme is "Solving Mysteries Through Chemistry."
- Dr. Don Perry recently had the following article accepted to Chemical Physics Letters: "Surface Enhanced Infrared Absorption Studies of Copper Nanostructures Formed by Oblique Angle Deposition." There were 13 UCA undergraduate authors.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- No Report

Geography

Dr. Jeff Allender reported:

- Ellen Hostetter had a paper accepted in the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council titled: "Reading Place, Reading Landscape: A Consideration of City as Text and Geography."
- Most of the department will be attending a conference this week.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- The Math Seminar series for Fall 2016 is off to a good start.
 - Dr. Ramesh Garimella is presented "On Square Roots" on Wednesday, August 31, 2016.
 - Dr. Weijiu Liu presented "Blood Glucose Regulation and Completeness of Real Numbers" on Wednesday, September 14, 2016.
 - Dr. Jeffrey Beyerl will present, "My Summer Experience: Cryptography, Duke's Talent Identification Program, and Flip Teaching," on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.
- The average attendance at Math Club this semester is 10 with the largest group being approximately 20 students. Meetings are being held bi-weekly. Students are working toward the Calculus completion scheduled for November. Upcoming event not yet announced is the MAA Math Jeopardy to be held in April. Jeff Beyerl will be looking for students to complete, and he will release details near the end of the semester.
- The Math Department's junior faculty are getting together informally every other Thursday at X-Period to share ideas. So far the group has met twice. Each time two faculty members have been tasked to lead the discussion with the leaders rotating between members of the group. The current members are Jeff Beyerl, Janet Nakrmi, Nesrin Sahin, Betul Bogrek, James Feterly, and Loi Booher. Fred Hickling is attending and providing organizational support for the group.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- No report.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Cara Cates – Elected 2017-2019 Vice President of the Arkansas Association of Mathematics Leaders!
- Activating the Vision for Math- A new program in collaboration with ArchFord Coop to develop a vision for the school district based on the test data. This is a three part series with follow-up session where schools focus on the professional development needs, plan to develop math leaders, and building capacity of current leadership. Eight school districts went through Day 1 training.
 - This can be applied to other subject areas.
 - The state requested them to do training for the state specialist and in future will plan on developing the training for science and literacy.
- GPS – Grasping Phenomenal Science – Sharon McKinney is leading the state team to develop. Providing 2 to 3 day training for elementary and middle school.