

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – August 11, 2014

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, August 11, 2014. All Chairs were present except Dr. Cash.

### Agenda Items:

1. Dean Addison announced changes in the CNSM Dean's Office staff. Dayna Bilderback is the new Administrative Assistant III in the Dean's office. Jennie Welter will be returning on September 1<sup>st</sup> as the CNSM Sophomore Advisor. Her office will be in LSC 107.
2. Dean Addison discussed the upcoming College Faculty Meeting. He asked that all chairs be prepared to introduce any new faculty during the meeting. He also asked that each chair send a list and a photo, if available, of the new faculty to be included in his slide presentation. Dean Addison asked for suggestions of topics to be covered during the meeting. Dr. Desrochers asked for salary and placement test updates. Dr. Garimella asked for a STEMteach update.
3. Dean Addison discussed the necessity of amending the College Committee bylaws to allow representation for the addition of the Geography Department. He stated that the Promotion and Tenure Committee must have one member from each department that already has tenure. The Research and Curriculum Committees have 5 members and 2 at-large members and he recommended that it be amended to 6 members and 1 at-large member. Discussion followed.
4. Dean Addison announced that annual reports are due on September 1<sup>st</sup>. He reminded the Chairs that Digital Measures runs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 and recommended that they reinforce with their faculty to continually update Digital Measures throughout the year. Dr. Adams recommended that the chairs start looking at the reports to check for uniformity and to catch duplicate entries on grants with co-PI's. Dean Addison reminded the chairs that they are responsible for filling in reassigned time.
5. Dean Addison asked that everyone check their emails regarding changes to the Title IX language that must be included on all course syllabi. He reminded the chairs that faculty must report any Title IX violation and to check the human resources website for additional information. Dean Addison requested that chairs review all syllabi for the required information.
6. Dean Addison passed out information on upcoming College Recruitment Fairs. Participation in these events helps to increase interest in UCA and the Dean asked that chairs let him know which events they would like to attend.

### Other Items:

1. Dr. Garimella discussed issues arising from international students that are conditionally admitted to UCA and the cost of having their transcripts evaluated. Discussion followed regarding using on-campus evaluators as a pre-screening option before having the students pay for the evaluation.
2. Dr. Frederickson announced that the Noyce Scholarship Program was awarded and that there will be two types of students involved, summer interns and Noyce scholarship recipients. Summer interns will receive 10 weeks of room and board, tuition for a 1 hours learning assistant course, and \$2,000 for working in a laboratory 20 hours per week. Noyce scholarship recipients will receive tuition for 15 credit hours per semester and room and board for the Fall and Spring. There is also money available for travel to disseminate summer research.
3. Dr. Allender announced that on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, he and Steve O'Connell have been invited to Pulaski Academy to meet with 90+ seniors taking AP Human Geography. Steve will give a demonstration on using on-line ArcGIS and Community Analyst software, and we'll help their IT

people get an account with ESRI for the free on-line ArcGIS software. I may also be able to meet with the academic advisors to discuss our programs. Please get me info and flyers to distribute.

## Chair Reports

Biology: No Report

Chemistry:

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- Karen Steelman led a UCA challenge workshop on chemistry and archaeology during the second week in July.
  - YouTube video summary - <http://youtu.be/bl80bw16rXI>
- Faith Yarberry teacher workshop through STEM Teach.
- Bryce Marquis Co-facilitated 2014 POGIL South Central Regional 3 day Workshop at UCA. There were about 40 attendees (both high school teachers and college professors) who we trained to write and facilitate POGIL exercises. Most attendees were from the region but we had a couple from further away (including one from Panama). POGIL = peer oriented guided inquiry learning
  - It was held on campus at the Brewer-Hegeman conference center on campus.
  - More info is here: <https://pogil.org/dashboard/events/2014-pogil-south-central-regional-workshop>

Computer Science:

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Doug Hofmann of Acxiom has agreed to teach a networking course for Fall 2014.
- A paper co-authored by Paul Young and former graduate student, Priyatham Anisetty, titled "Adding Semantic Web Technology to the Object-Oriented Method for Interoperability" was presented at the 2014 International Conference on Software Engineering Research and Practice from July 21-24 in Las Vegas.
- Michael Nooner, CS Systems Administrator resigned effective August 15<sup>th</sup> to pursue a doctoral degree. Search is underway to find a replacement.
- Victor Sheng and Sinan Kockara submitted proposals, respectively to NSF and ASTA.
- Vamsi Parachuri conducted a Google workshop for high school teachers organized by UCA STEM Institute on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Geography:

Dr. Allender reported:

- Steve O'Connell, Matt Connolly, and I attended the National Conference on Geography Education in Memphis last week. Steve presented a paper on, *Making the Global Local: Teaching Geography through Digital and Field Experiences*.
- I ran a day-long field trip into the Arkansas Delta, emphasizing the geology of Crowley's Ridge, the economic importance and evolution of delta agriculture, and why the geography of the Helena area prevented the Confederacy from taking the city during the Civil War.
- I was asked by the Director of Education for National Geographic Society if I wanted to continue as Coordinator of the Arkansas Geographic Alliance, but I did not commit at this time.

## Mathematics:

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- 10 Students received graduate degrees in Mathematics at this year's summer commencement.
- Dr. Lenin received a contract from UAMS in the amount of \$24,196 for his proposal, Modeling & Simulation of Patients' Flows in Healthcare Systems. The contract included funds to support a graduate student.
- 18 high school students attended the 2014 MSIT Summer Camp during the week of July 14-18. Eight attended a Cryptology session conducted by Ramesh Garimella and R.B. Lenin and the remaining participated in Game Programming session using C++ conducted by Mark Smith of the Computer Science Department.
- The Math GTA workshop is scheduled for August 14, 15, and 18<sup>th</sup>.

## STEM Institute:

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Summer: Most busiest June and July months. Workshops every week, sometimes three different grants overlapping.
  - Robotics (NCLB grant) – Two weeks in Pinebluff and two weeks on UCA campus; 40 teachers; collaborated CoEd (Dr. Helen Hu), Computer Science (Dr. Paruchuri) with UAPB (Ms. Felicia Webb and Dr. Shelton Fitzpatric)
  - MSP –Connecting Core Concepts – Two weeks; 30 teachers in treatment group and 30 teachers in comparison group. Collaboration with CoEd (Dr. Feng); Math (Dr. Pinchback). Chemistry (Dr. Yarberry); Biology (Mr. Mimms); Conway School district (Mr. Eppers and Dr. Sweeri)
  - MSP - Math Core Team – One week; 30 teachers in treatment group and 30 teachers in comparison group. Collaboration Math (Dr. MgGehee, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Pinchback, Dr. Le and Dr. Burg)
  - Google Tools workshop: One-day workshop 38 teachers presenter Dr. Paruchuri
  - ETA Hand2 Mind and Lawrence Hall of Science – did one day presentation – free of cost.
- Science Specialist –Selected group from Arkansas attended: “Achieve EQUiP Rubric for Science” in Washington DC to view/research/collaborated on new rubric assessment for STEM and NGSS. Looked at lesson plans and apply the rubrics and evaluate. July 2014
- Other Professional Development trainings
  - Paragould, Crowley Ridge, Great Rivers and NEA Coop – preAP training and SD science trainings
  - AP training

## Physics & Astronomy:

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- UCA has received an NSF Grant, “UCA Noyce Scholarship Program: Recruiting Highly Qualified Math and Science Teacher Candidates.” The award will provide \$1,198,506 over five years. The proposal was written by Carl Frederickson (Physics and Astronomy), Jason Martin (Mathematics), Mark Bland (Biology), Gary Bunn (Teaching and Learning), Faith Yarberry (Chemistry), Andrew Mason (Physics and Astronomy). It will provide for 8 summer intern positions for rising sophomores and 6 scholarships for juniors and seniors in the STEMteach program.
- Dr. Andrew Mason submitted an NSF Career Grant proposal titled, “Computer Coaches for Problem Solving: High School Physics to University-level Physics.”

- Dr. Andrew Mason and Charles Bertram (student) presented three posters, “Epistemic Impact on Group Problem Solving for Different Science Majors,” “Metacognition and Epistemic Games in IPLS Problem Solving,” and “Epistemic Impact on Metacognition for Cooperative Group Problem Solving” at the 2014 Physics Education Research Conference in Minneapolis, MN July 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Charles Bertram (student) made an oral presentation on July 30 at the 2014 AAPT Summer Meeting titled, “Metacognition and Epistemic Games in IPLS Problem Solving.” Dr. Andrew Mason is Charles’ faculty mentor.
- Dr. Andrew Mason gave an oral presentation titled, “Computer Coaches in Problem Solving: Evaluation by High School Teachers,” at the 2014 AAPT Summer Meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Mishal Benson (student) was a co-author on the presentation.
- Dr. Andrew Mason was part of the panel presenting “Confessions of a First-Year Faculty,” at the 2014 AAPT Summer Meeting on July 28.