

# COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

## Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – August 25, 2014

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, August 25, 2014. All Chairs were present. Guest, Brian Corbin, Director of Transfer Services was in attendance.

### Agenda Items:

- Brian Corbin addressed council primarily focusing on 2+2 agreements with community colleges and the work he has started with ASU Beebe. Discussion followed regarding capturing students interest at the high school level so they have a clear path from the beginning and getting the students on 2+2 plans involved in UCA activities so they can begin developing relationships with UCA faculty and 4-year students in their chosen disciplines. Dean Addison asked chairs to work directly with Brian on developing the 2+2 plans but to keep him in the loop on the progress being made.
- Dean Addison asked that Upper Division Core for each department be determined and submitted by end of Fall Semester for inclusion in next year's bulletin. He also suggested that an umbrella AA program be developed by December 1<sup>st</sup> so it can be included in the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ADHE.
- Minutes from the August 11, 2014 meeting were distributed and approved.

### Other Items:

- Dean Addison announced that the Provost Office has distributed the \$123,000 in one-time travel funds to the academic departments based on \$251 for every full time faculty member.
- Dean Addison recommends that chairs attend Academic Council meetings to get early information on upcoming items.
- Dean Addison asked chairs to send letters of appointment for 1-year employees to make sure they understand that it is a 1-year appointment.
- Dean Addison reminded chairs to submit NSF Grant reports in a timely fashion. NSF may not accept new proposals if reports are not submitted on time.
- Jeff Allender asked that we begin looking for dedicated classroom space to replace the classrooms that he is losing in Irby due to his department moving into our college. He needs one large classroom/lecture hall that will seat 46 or more and one medium size classroom with at least 25 to 35 seats. His main concern is to have a classroom where several maps can be installed and left in the room.
- Ginny Adams asked that everyone take a look at the Digital Measures guide and let her know of any revisions that need to be made.

### Chair Reports:

#### Biology

Dr. Cash reported:

- Biology had a smooth start to the semester.
- He is stepping down as Chair in December due to family health issues.

## Chemistry

Dr. Desrochers reported:

- Kristin Dooley participated in the CNSM Boot Camp on August 13-16<sup>th</sup>.
- Lei Yang and Bill Taylor both submitted NSF RUI proposals.
- Melissa Kelly promoted STEMteach with a short presentation in all CHEM 1450, 1451, and 2401 lectures during the first week of classes.
- Faith Yarberr, Kristen Dooley, and Student ACS officers presented chemistry demos at Conway Days on August 20<sup>th</sup>, the day before classes.
- Emily Bailey is a Chemistry STEMteach Noyce fellowship prospect.

## Computer Science

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- A hiring proposal for a new Computer Technician has been started.

## Geography

Dr. Allender reported:

- Geography had a smooth start to the semester.
- 2 of 3 sections of MGIS filled.
- Geography has moved into their new offices in Burdick.

## Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- The BSE is being phased out.
- The Math Resource Center opened and instructors agreed to spend at least 1 hour in the lab.

## STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- UCA STEM Institute received Math and Science Partnership grant funding for the second year. This is a three-year grant with total funding of \$450K. Sixty teachers from Conway, South Conway County, Little Rock and Pulaski County school districts are part of the program.

Title of the Grant: **Connecting Core Instructions for the Next Generation mathematicians and Scientists: CCI 5-7**

Funding Agency: **US Department of Education (through ADE)**

PI: **Dr. Umadevi Garimella**

Funded Amount: **\$149,026.00**

UCA Faculty involved in the grant: Science faculty: Dr. Debra Burris (Physics and Astronomy); Mr. Jerry Mimms (Biology); Mathematics faculty: Dr. Linda Griffith; Dr. Carolyn Pinchback  
College of Education faculty: Dr. Shoudong Feng

Staff from STEM Institute: Ms. Minnietta Ready and Ms. Belinda Robertson

Other collaborators: Louisiana Tech University; and Lawrence Hall of Science, University of Berkley, California.

## Physics

Dr. Frederickson reported:

- Interviews for the Admin II position have started.
- There was a photo tweeted on Senator Rapiere's Twitter account showing the senator trying out an angular momentum demonstration along with physics major, John Ferrier, at Conway Days on August 20<sup>th</sup>.