

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - February 19, 2018

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, February 19, 2018. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, Steve O'Connell. Guests: Aimee Poynter, CNSM Development Officer.

Agenda Items:

1. Dean Addison led a discussion on handling students with DSS needs. It is very important to facilitate meetings to address issues with faculty even if the need can't be met.
2. Dean Addison reminded council of the importance to file paperwork in a timely manner especially payroll documents and leave reports. If filing a backdated PAF, please attach a letter of explanation for why the document is late.
3. Dean Addison advised council on the need to review the BA/BS special degree requirements due to the fallout from eliminating the BA in Psychology. Is there support to change the way we define BA/BS requirements? Is there a need for students to take additional courses if there is enough content built in to award the degree?
4. Dean Addison reminded council that students must receive a syllabus the first day of class and that chairs should received them ahead of time to review for content. He also asks that chairs remind faculty advisors to be available to students for entire contract period even if classes are not in session. If advisors are not going to be on campus, they need to arrange for an alternate advisor to be available.

Other Items/Announcements

- President Davis is moving towards an opening convocation for faculty and will be announcing the service awards at the convocation instead of in the spring.
- UCA is not going to increase fees next academic year so there is no new money coming in and we need to continue our efforts to increase recruiting and retention. A few ways we can do this:
 - Hold a CNSM Saturday to focus on what we do in our college with CNSM sessions, department sessions, and include financial aid and admissions.
 - Continue to develop relationships with high school science and math teachers.
 - Get nametags, shirts, lapel pins, and business cards.
- Ginny Adams needs volunteers for Girl Power in STEM. Be watching for emails on how to register.
- When submitting student travel requests, be sure to complete the scholarship form and check the box indicating that the student is receiving academic credit for the trip.
- Next CoC will be April 16, 2018 at 1 p.m.
- CNSM Poster Symposium is April 20th in the Farris Center.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- Campus interviews will take place this week for the open Biology positions.

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Two different alumni presented seminars of their careers and research to the department over the past several weeks. One was from Jim Howard (BS 1963) who works for Clariant, a catalyst development company. The other was from Dr. Charles Nichols (BS 2009) who is a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of J. McClane at Vanderbilt. The McClane lab is one of the top mass spec labs in the world.
- Some papers published by faculty:
 - “Combining Explicit Quantum Solvent with a Polarizable Continuum Model” Makenzie Provorse Long, C. M. Isborn J. Physical Chemistry B 2017, 121(43), pp 10105-117.
 - “PseudoScience Fair at UCA is an Opportunity to Engage Students’ Critical Thinking and Communication Skills.” Karafit, S. J.; Yarberrry, F. M. Plant Science Bulletin/Botanical Soc. of America 2017, 63(3), pp 168-170.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- We are currently conducting video interviews for our tenure-track Computer Engineering and Cybersecurity positions.
- Computer Science student Recep Erol presented a poster at the STEM Posters at the Capitol event.
- Emre Celebi and about 20 computer science students participated as judges/referees in the Engineering Eagles Robotics Tournament organized by Vilonia High School.

Geography

Dr. Stephen O’Connell reported:

- Geography will have two candidates on campus this week.

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Drs. Jeff Beyerl and Janet Nakarmi received funding from the Center for Teaching Excellence for travel and equipment purchase.
- Campus interviews are being held for applied stat positions.
- This is the last week for Annette Woloszyn who has resigned to relocate to Wisconsin. Admin II search is underway to fill the position.
- Dr. Todd Abel attended the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators meeting in Houston, TX during the week of February 5, 2018.

- Last week, Dr. Janet Nakarmi attended workshops at the Conference for Statistical Practice in Portland, OR.
- Drs. Janet Nakarmi and Nesrin Sahin submitted proposals for URC grants.
- Math majors Kara Graham and William Goster, mentored by Jason Martin, presented poster entitled, "Eye-tracking and Calculus Videos," at the State Capitol last week. The research was funded by an NSF grant.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Still searching for new engineering faculty, plan on expanding search to get more qualified candidates.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Need report

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- Day of Giving is on March 8th.
- CNSM Advisory Board meeting is March 4th from 12:00-1:30pm.