

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting - October 1, 2018

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, October 1, 2018. Stephen Addison presided, members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, and Steve O'Connell.

Agenda Items:

1. Dean Addison informed council that plans are being discussed to build an approximately 8,000 square foot addition as well as some limited renovations to Lewis Science Center to support our growing programs and the upcoming expansion of the nursing cohort. The addition would be an industrial build with high density utilities to support engineering laboratories and the renovations would include a 3rd A&P lab to meet the increasing need for this course.
2. Dean Addison announced that the CNSM and the COB are piloting a smart resume program that uses blockchain credentialing through iDatafy in Little Rock. The program offers a way to provide secure, verified resumes for our students and will help prevent fraudulent activity. He asks that each Chair provide the names of some active undergraduate students and alumni that would allow us to use their data to test the system.
3. Dean Addison announced that Jonathan Glenn is taking over the duties of the recently vacated Director of Assessment position while the university reevaluates the program and decides on what kind of person we need in this position. Names of each department's assessment coordinators need to be submitted by the end of the week to assist with this process.
4. Dean Addison recently attended a Council of Deans retreat and shared with council some of the major priorities for Academic Affairs. Focus areas will include recruiting and retention with plans to hire a Vice President of Enrollment Management that will oversee the advising center, registrar, admissions, and financial aid so that student services can be more centralized and coordinated. Other priorities are to develop meta-majors that will allow student to continue progress on a degree even if they change majors and continued development of the G2C program.
5. Dean Addison led a discussion on the importance of documenting meetings with faculty in regards to student concerns as repeated incidents can lead to Title IX action. Many current Title IX reports are referred back to department chairs as unprofessional behavior incidents, this puts the responsibility for action in the hands of the department chair. Discussion followed on ways to handle issues, starting with verbal agreements, sending letters of reprimand, keeping meeting notes, or requiring faculty to attend training sessions in person instead of online.
6. Dean Addison reminded chairs that annual reports are due and asks that Chairs email their reports by the end of the week.
7. Dean Addison reminded chairs that faculty evaluations should be conducted every year and they are due to him by October 15th if they have not already been submitted for the previous year.
8. Dean Addison reminded Chairs to be sure and ask for replacement support on sabbatical applications so appropriate budget arrangements can be made.

Other Items/Announcements

- Dean Addison announced that the Provost Office will provide support and pay green card fees for international hires but will not seek a green card in the first H1B period. Discussion followed.
- Please continue to submit dates and times for Creative Services to come by and take photos of our students in action. Photos will be used on brochures and other recruiting materials.
- Pat Desrochers announced that chemistry alum, Mary Good, is giving a talk on November 1 during x-period.
- Dean Addison reminded chairs that we will no longer have chair reports during council meetings and asks that reports be emailed to Dayna so they can be appended into the minutes.
- If you have any items that need to be added to the agenda, send them in before our next meeting on October 15th.

Chair Reports:

Biology

Dr. Hill reported:

- No report

Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Tori Dunlap submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of Chemical Education* detailing the improved method developed by her and her students to increase the expression and isolation of calmodulin from *e coli*. This method greatly reduces the amount of time needed to prepare protein, and will benefit instructional labs, making more efficient use of limited lab time. Protein researchers may also be interested in applying this same tool to their research labs.
- Kristin Dooley and an undergraduate coauthor published a paper in the Arkansas Academy of Science Proceedings.
- Lei Yang submitted a 3-y NSF RUI grant request focusing on the catalytic reduction of CO₂ by Cu-Cu centers, September 2018.
- Bill Taylor had a NASA Arkansas Space Grant proposal funded to model the reactions of gaseous ions and molecules in the atmosphere of Titan (a moon of Saturn), September 2018.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Bernard Chen published two papers in the Fermentation journal with two UCA graduate students.
- Ahmad Patooghy presented a paper at the 2018 IEEE System-on-Chip Conference (IEEE SOCC 2018) in Arlington, VA.
- Chenyi Hu chaired the interim ABET review for an IT program at an Illinois institution.

- Olcay Kursun published a paper in the proceedings of the Fourth Federal Interagency Conference on Traumatic Brain Injury (TIB).
- Tansel Halic received an NIH award for his proposal entitled “Development and Validation of a Virtual Colorectal Surgical Trainer (VCoST)”. The UCA portion of the budget is \$169,180.
- Arthrex, a multibillion-dollar orthopedic medical device company, visited Tansel Halic’s ViRaSIM lab to discuss possible collaboration opportunities.
- Emre Celebi visited the Institute for Systems and Robotics (ISR) at the Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), the largest and most prestigious school of engineering in Portugal.
- Emre Celebi chaired the Skin Image Analysis Workshop at the International Conference on Medical Image Computing; Computer Assisted Intervention (MICCAI 2018) in Granada, Spain. The full-day workshop featured nearly 20 expert speakers and attracted a large number of attendees from around the world.
- Emre Celebi guest-edited a special issue of Journal of Electronic Imaging entitled “Image and Video Analysis, Detection, and Recognition”

Geography

Dr. Stephen O’Connell reported:

- Will Flatley was recently awarded a research grant from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission for \$16,000. The research will investigate the fire history of the Devil’s Knob-Devil’s Backbone Natural Area.
- Stephen O’Connell was awarded a grant for \$15,000 from the City of Morillon and the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism to complete a Tourism Feasibility Study on a potential new bike and pedestrian crossing at the Orland Lock & Dam south of Morillon.
- The following faculty had recent publications:
 - Will Flatley: O’Donnell, F.C., Flatley, W.T., Springer, A.E., Fulé, P.Z. 2018. Forest restoration as a strategy to mitigate climate impacts on wildfire, vegetation, and water in semi-arid forests. *Ecological Applications*, 28 (6): 1459–1472.
 - Brooks Pearson: Ways, B.*, Pearson, B. C. (2018). Evaluating the Effectiveness of CCTV Crime Cameras in Baltimore, Maryland. In Jorge Rocha (Ed.), *Spatial Analysis, Modeling, and Planning*. Rijeka, Croatia: InTechOpen..

Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- No report.

Physics

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- No report.

STEM Institute

Dr. Uma Garimella reported:

- Grant collaborations:
 - Submitted Physics Department - DOE IES (Institute for Education Sciences)
 - Computer Science -Computer Science for All (CSforAll:RPP) Researcher Practitioner Partnerships and NSF REU .

- Conferences/Talks:
 - State AAML/ACTM - Responsible of registration for the 2-day conference at Pulaski Tech. About 300 math teachers attended the conference. Information regarding conference planning. Conference can hold up to 175 people – September 27-28, 2018
 - Attending Magna Teaching with Technology Conference – Oct 5 -7,2018
 - STEM Fest Thunder Over the Rock – Planning to have a booth for Ozobot and photobooth activity for students.

- School Collaborations:
 - Working with Horace Mann Middle School to help them with Project Lead The Way
 - Collaborating with Conway Christian with STEMteach program – placing students in classroom.

Development Officer

Aimee Poynter reported:

- No Report