

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS

Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting – January 27, 2020

A meeting of the Council of Chairs of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics was held on Monday, January 20, 2020, Stephen Addison presided.

Members present: Ginny Adams, Emre Celebi, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimella, Brent Hill, and Stephen O'Connell.

Guests: Dr. Jeff Beyerl, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Leigh Ann Denhartog, Director of Academic Advising.

Agenda Items:

1. Leigh Ann Denhartog updated council on new summer advising program, Bear Basics, for all incoming freshman. Bear Basics is a collaboration with SOAR and will help freshman students register for classes and get acquainted with various services on campus as well as their academic advisors. Several volunteers will be needed for this event and will be coordinated through the advising center.
2. Minutes from December 16, 2019 meeting approved with minor revisions.
3. Dean Addison asked chairs to review class schedules and make sure enrollment numbers are set at reasonable levels and to be watching for classes that are under-enrolled so adjustments can be made prior to classes starting.
4. Dean Addison updated council on the Resource Optimization Initiative (ROI) and how it will affect the CNSM moving forward. Dr. Carl Frederickson informed council that President Davis is scheduled to discuss ROI at the February Academic Council meeting for those who are interested in attending.
5. Ginny Adams updated council on BA/BS special degree requirements. The committee is seeking to open up courses to allow for a broader range of students seeking a BS. The idea is to offer courses that strengthen the degree for the student so students are not taking a lot of pre-requisite courses just to meet BA/BS degree requirements.
6. Ginny Adams reported that we have submitted two meta-major proposals and that the committee will be meeting tomorrow to begin reviewing them.
7. Brent Hill updated council on work being done regarding assignment of duties. The faculty handbook will define what a faculty full load is and each college will need to develop how that is best determined for their college based on class size, labs, research, etc.
8. Dean Addison submitted a pre-proposal to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and is waiting to hear if we will be invited to submit a full proposal. If invited, we will take a hard look at what we propose so that we develop programs that are sustainable.
9. With several ongoing search in the college, Dean Addison advises that Chairs make sure all advertising requirements are being met for the potential of hiring international candidates. Discussion followed on the need for a workshop on international hire paperwork.
 - Geography – narrowing pool down on TT position in GIS. Hope to have short list soon.
 - Computer Science – currently searching for a TT position in Cybersecurity.
 - Biology – The third candidate for the TT position in Cell Biology was on campus today, should select candidate this week.

- Chemistry – held several interviews for TT position in Organic Chemistry but looking at a few more candidates and continuing search for new Chemical Hygiene officer.

Other Items:

1. Tracy McGarrity has accepted a position in the Office of Student Services; her last day will be February 7th.
2. We need to fill committee positions on two Faculty Award committees: Public Service and Teaching Award, please send nominations to Dean Addison by Friday.
3. Dean Addison shared an email from Chief Merguie about a classroom incident at Ball State where a professor called the police on a student who refused to change seats in the middle of class. Discussion followed on how to promote student success and providing a safe environment for that to happen.

Chair Reports:

Chemistry

Dr. Patrick Desrochers reported:

- Department is actively working to recruit its first cohort of 5 ATOM Scholars (NSF S-STEM program) to be on campus beginning in Fall 2020.
- Tori Dunlap earned an NIH AR INBRE award to continue her work studying critical proteins associated with calcium binding in organisms. The funding is for \$265,000 over the next 2.5 years.
- The department's award-winning student ACS chapter is reaching out to Conway HS to facilitate them beginning a HS ACS chapter. This is advocated by the national ACS and can be an effective tool for outreach, promoting the chemical sciences, and recruiting new UCA students.
- Two additional 6-foot fume hoods were installed in Prince 201. Final plumbing and HVAC connections are being made Jan 27 & 28. These hoods complete the extensive renovation of Prince 201 from an underused OT instructional space into a full equipped chemical research laboratory. Dedication of this space is set for Feb 28, following the CNSM Advisory Board meeting, where we will highlight the financial support of UCA alum, Dr. Slaton Fry, and his employer, SafeFoods of North Little Rock. Financial support from Dr. Fry and SafeFoods greatly facilitated the completion of this critical renovation project. This lab will house the research of 4 different tenured/tenure-track chemistry faculty.

Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Emre Celebi has been elected to the editorial board of the IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics. The journal is ranked as one of the top 3 (out of 57) Health Information Management Journals according to h-index.
- Emre Celebi and his colleagues published an article, "Sparse Wavelet Networks", in the IEEE Signal Processing Letters journal.

- Bernard Chen and Mahmut Karakaya attended the Institute for the Development of Excellence in Assessment Leadership (IDEAL) event organized by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in New Orleans, LA during January 6–9, 2020.
- Bernard Chen and his graduate students, Zeqing Dong, Xiaowan Guo, and Syamala Rajana, published an article, “Understanding 21st Century Bordeaux Wines from Wine Reviews Using Naïve Bayes Classifier”, in the Beverages journal.
- Bernard Chen and his graduate student James Palmer published an article, “Classification on Grade, Price, and Region with Multi-Label and Multi-Target Methods in Wineinformatics”, in the Big Data Mining and Analytics journal.

Physics and Astronomy

Dr. Carl Frederickson reported:

- Dr. Andrew Mason has been appointed to the History and Philosophy of Physics Committee of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). This is a 3-year appointment beginning with the end of the 2020 Winter meeting (January 18-21).
 - Mission
 - To promote interest in the history and philosophy of physics among the Association members.
 - To work towards the preservation and deepening of a historical perspective in physics education at all levels.
 - To develop increased sensitivity among members to the need to preserve careful records of current happenings.
 - To cooperate, as appropriate, with AIP's Center for the History of Physics and APS's Forum on the History of Physics.
- Grace Zimmerman, undergraduate physics major, has been awarded an ASGC Workforce Development Grant. This will provide support for her to spend the summer working at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.
- Dr. Debra Burris and 7 undergraduate physics and engineering physics majors; Hannah Barry, Nadira Mohamane, Grace Zimmerman, Simeon Simmons, Briana Budnick, Julia Hambuchen and Carol Stover attended the regional Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP) held at the University of Oklahoma January 17-19.
- Mason, A. J. (2020). In Y. Cao, S. Wolf, M. Bennett (Ed.), Learning goals and perceived irrelevance to major within life science majors in introductory physics.: www.per-central.org/perc/proceedings.