

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
Minutes of Council of Chairs Meeting  
February 17, 2020

Members Present: Stephen Addison, Ginny Adams, Pat Desrochers, Carl Frederickson, Ramesh Garimella, Uma Garimealla, Brent Hill, and Stephen O'Connell.

Members Absent: Emre Celebi

Guests: Jacob Cockran - Computer Science, Amy Hawkins - CTE

Agenda Items:

- Minutes from February 3, 2020 meeting approved with minor revisions.
- Dean Addison updated council on Resource Optimization Initiative. He is not expecting major changes in our college but we are looking for ways to save money such as turning off lights in unused areas of buildings, not running HVAC system, conducting energy audits, and cutting back on paper use.
- Council thought Admitted Students Day was an overall success with only minor organizational issues with registration period and people arriving halfway or at end of beginning session. Students seem excited about activities and parents were receptive to the day. Would like more advance notice for planning purposes and to recruit the right faculty.
- Dean Addison asked that Chairs encourage faculty to apply for sabbatical if they are eligible as keeping current on research enables us to do new things.
- Pat Desrochers announced that the Governor plans to attend Posters at the Capitol. He asks that we encourage people to attend this event.
- Dean Addison gave council and update on the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences Dean search and encouraged participation in the open sessions and review process.
- Amy Hawkins handed out guidelines for next year's Faculty Development Awards and emphasized that the amount of funding comes down to how well faculty complete the application.

Other Items:

- Footings for the new Lewis Annex have gone in and repairs to the flooded areas in the basement of Lewis have started.
- Dean Addison reported that Kevin Thomas, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, is working on student success barriers. Discussion followed on graduate school applications and rolling schedules.
- Carl Frederickson announced that President Davis will be attending Academic Council on Friday to discuss ROI.

## Chair Reports

### Chemistry

Dr. Pat Desrochers reported:

- Department entertained 35 7th and 8th grade students from Helena / W. Helena school district on 01/29/20. Students were treated to hands on demos and other lab activities. Drs. Long, Massey, Yarberr, Baldwin, and Dooley and Ms. Freeman all assisted with this. The students were also taken on tours of the chemistry department.
- The department hosted 90 Conway High School chemistry students in the classes of Emily Bailey (CHS chemistry teacher and 2017 CHEM/STEMTeach alumna) on 01/30/20. CHS student attended the lectures of Drs. Tarkka (Organic 2) and Barnett (Organic 1) and were introduced to the department's opportunities available to students. UCA's student ACS chapter did live chemical demonstrations for the students in the afternoon and conducted tours the department labs and instrumentation.
- The department mailed 80 letters (02/17/20) to prospective fall chemistry majors encouraging them to apply for its new ATOM Scholar program funded by NSF SSTEM.

### Computer Science

Dr. Emre Celebi reported:

- Emre Celebi has been elected to the editorial board of the SPIE Journal of Medical Imaging (JMI). The journal covers fundamental and translational research, as well as applications, focused on medical imaging, which continue to yield physical and biomedical advancements in the early detection, diagnostics, and therapy of disease as well as in the understanding of normal.
- Yu Sun and her colleagues published an article ("Video Coding Optimization for Virtual Reality 360-degree Source") in the IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Signal Processing.

### Mathematics

Dr. Ramesh Garimella reported:

- Dr. Lisa Skultety gave a talk titled *Investigations into Connections Between Teachers' Professional Noticing and Teachers' Cognitive Resources: Looking Back and Moving Forward* at the 2020 Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators Annual Conference in Phoenix.
- Dr. Nesrin Sahin presented a poster titled *Prospective Teachers' Beliefs and Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching* at the 2020 Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators Annual Conference in Phoenix.
- Dr. Sharif Mahmood received a travel grant from the Center for Teaching Excellence to attend a conference focused on pedagogical issues in statistics .
- Dr. Kurt Boniecki and Dr. Garimella represented UCA on a webinar "Expanding Strong Start to Finish Arkansas" on February 6 th, conducted by Dana Center Mathematics

Pathways. The webinar recording, PPT slides, and all resources referenced in the webinar can be found at: <https://utexas.box.com/s/o2u1eyj5li9h41xa07kadpgy72wuoo6o>.

- Dr. Lisa Skultety judged the science fair at Harris Elementary School in Pulaski County on January 30.