

Approved

Minutes of the December 16th, 2022, Meeting of the CELS Executive Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences Executive Council was held at 10:30AM via Webex. Members present were Department Chairs Lane, Becker, Chandlee, Brown, Paton, Sheridan and Petersson; Associate Deans Sartini, Wilga and Townson; Dr. Pradhanang and *ex-officio* members Palmer and Silva with Associate Dean Sartini presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Chris Lane and seconded by Joel Chandlee to approve the November 4th, 2022, Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.*

Announcements:

Associate Dean Sartini

1. President's office is looking for alumni nominations from our college for 10 under 10. The candidate we sent forward cannot attend the recognition ceremony so the college needs to send forward another nomination. Please send any names/nominations for this award ASAP.
2. Update on university-wide TA allocation process that was managed by the Graduate School. CELS was allocated 6 new TAs over the next 4 years. CELS will revisit the TA allocation process to departments in the spring.
3. Please let your TA's know what courses they are teaching in the spring semester.
4. The Provost Office offered Academic Leadership Professional Development Workshop on December 14th, the program was a discussion on emotional intelligence and radical candor. The speaker will be offering another program on January 17th, the topic is dealing with difficult people, there are still spots available. Department Chairs are encouraged to attend.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. The Research Office is having a lot of issues with proposals submitted too close to the submission deadline. After discussions with OSP, CELS will be setting firm deadlines soon for submitting proposals with triaging.
2. There are two available Spring RA's, tuition only. If you have a student in need, please send the information to Dean Wilga. the information, we don't have a mechanism yet on choosing. The PI would have to pay the stipend for this student. These RA's are land grants; no report would be needed.

Associate Dean Townson

1. Food Summit is scheduled on January 18th and will be held again virtually.
2. Working with state and federal agencies on forestry and agriculture and there are funding opportunities now available for technical assistance particularly around water quality & livestock and solar heating of hoop houses. Any faculty member or graduate student interested please contact Associate Dean Townson.
3. Kevin Stacey has arranged a meeting with Matthew McDonald, VP Communications and Marketing to learn more about university-wide communications initiatives. Kevin will provide some type of guidelines for CELS including ideas for new articles and getting information on social media.

Meredith Silva

1. Update on CELS Staff: 3 on medical leave and 2 vacant positions (one currently starting on 1/3/2023 and the other is in the interviewing process). Our staff have been working overtime to try and pick up the workload.
2. Remote and holiday working schedule has been offered to the support staff and a calendar of their availability and location will be sent out next week to the Chairs.
3. Colleen Blackwood will be out of the office. If you have any HR requests, promotions, extensions, or anything personnel please reach out to Judy or Meredith.

Judy Palmer

1. Spring Executive Council Meeting dates will be sent out next week.
2. All CELS Professional Staff and Faculty January meeting will be sent out next week, Associate Dean Sartini will be hosting due to Dean Kirby traveling.

Other Business:

- Katherine Petersson (Chair of CELS By-laws committee): Nominations are needed for Faculty Secretary. Vote will occur at next All CELS Faculty meeting.
- Austin Becker: Announcement at Graduate Faculty meeting that adjunct status is no longer needed for non- URI faculty to serve on graduate committees (but they must have Affiliate status). Dean's office will report back to committee about role of adjunct status and renewal of status.
- Discussion about process for CELS Strategic Plan

Meeting was adjourned with a motion by ***Chris Lane*** and seconded by ***Richard Sheridan***

