

MINUTES

CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting -- August 28, 2024

1). The CELS Faculty and Professional Staff meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 in the Weaver Auditorium with Dean Kirby presiding. There were 84 members of the CELS Faculty and Staff Present, constituting a quorum.

2). *The Minutes from the May 1, 2024 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were presented for approval and were approved without objection.*

3). Announcements:

a) Dean Kirby welcomed all back for the Fall Semester and wished all well.

b) Dean Kirby announced faculty promotions effective July 1, 2024:

Dr. Maria Hoffman-Peterson- Tenure & Promotion

Dr. Pengfei Lui - Tenure & Promotion

Dr. Brian Plouffe- Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Carlos Prada- Tenure & Promotion

Dr. Soni Pradhanang- Full Professor

Dr. Brett Still- Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Coleen Suckling- Tenure & Promotion

Dr Austin Becker- Full Professor

Dr. David Bidwell- Full Professor

Dr. Jodi Camberg- Full Professor

Dr. Jane Buxton- Associate Teaching Professor

Dr. Daniela Lopes Paim Pinto- Associate Teaching Professor

Dr. Niels-Viggo Hobbs-Associate Teaching Professor

c) Dean Kirby announced new faculty hires in the last year.

Dr. Kathleen Carroll Assistant Professor/NRS

Dr. Laura Eme Associate Professor/CMB

Dr. Johanna Harvey Assistant Professor/NRS

Dr. Sarah Kienle Assistant Professor/NRS

Dr. Yoshitaka Ota Professor/MAF

Dr. Patrick Sorenson Assistant Professor/NRS

Ms. Hongbing Tang Assistant Teaching Professor/LAR

Dr. Cynthia Taylor Assistant Teaching Professor/MAF

Dr. Pengyu Liu Assistant Professor MATH/CMB

d) Dean Kirby announced faculty retirements in the last year.

Dr. Jacqueline Webb- Full Professor (BIO)

Dr. David Nelson- Full Professor (CMB)

e) Dean Kirby provided some details about the new University Budget Model that is now in full implementation.

4). Awards:

Teaching Excellence- Dr. Evan Preisser, BIO; presented by Dr. Amelia Moore

Staff Excellence- Ms. Sarah Puckett, CELS; Presented by Assistant Dean Aura Grandidge

Outreach Excellence- Ms. Lisa Philo, NRS; Presented by Dr. Rebecca Brown

Research Excellence- Dr. Todd Guilfoos, ENRE; Presented by Dr. David Bidwell

Service Excellence- Dr. Evan Preisser, BIO; Presented by Dr. Amelia Moore and Dr. Michael Rice

5). Reports of the Standing Committees

- a). Diversity Committee- Dr. Amelia Moore The CELS Diversity Committee Dr. Moore delivered the Diversity Committee Report and announced that Dr. Sunshine Menezes will be the incoming Diversity Committee Chairperson. The Diversity Committee Report is presented in **Appendix 1**.
- b). Curriculum Committee- Dr. Soni Pradhanang The Curriculum Committee presented an overview of course proposals and Program Proposals that were processed in the last year. The Curriculum Committee Report is presented in **Appendix 2**.
- c). Research Committee- Dr. Niall Howlett The Research Committee had nothing to report.
- d). Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordination Committee (CEOCC)- Extension Specialist Kate Venturini Hardesty. The CEOCC report was deferred to the report by Associate Dean Lisa Townson.
- e). Space Committee- Dr. Corey Lang Space Committee Chairperson Lang reported that there were no new space requests in the Spring of 2024.
- f). Commencement Committee-Dr. John Taylor . Dr. Taylor was not present but it was reported by the Committee that there will be a fall commencement to be held December 14th at 10 a.m. in the Ryan Center. In May 2024 CELS had 325 graduates, and this December, 103 are expected.
- g). Bylaws Committee- Dr. Katherine Petersson. The CELS Bylaws Committee served to compile the CELS committee assignments and acted in the function of the CELS Faculty Secretary during the 2023 to 2024 Academic Year. The Bylaws Committee Report is Presented as **Appendix 3**.

6). Reports of the Dean's Staff

- a). Associate Dean Sartini. Associate Dean Sartini presented the report of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that included a summary of the demographics of the incoming Fall 2024 CELS freshman class. She announced key dates for faculty awareness and an ATL-sponsored workshop on the use of AI in pedagogy. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee Report is presented as **Appendix 4**.
- b). Associate Dean Wilga. Associate Dean Wilga reported an 8% increase in total research funding awards to CELS in the previous year. She added that the effective return on indirect costs is 25%, which is inadequate in the future with the new budget model. Considerable work on data analysis, publication, etc. are often done on-campus despite field work being done abroad.
- c). Associate Dean Townson. Associate Dean Townson presented the report of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Report. A major activity of a Cooperative Extension Needs Assessment was undertaken. There was an Internal retreat conducted on March 15, 2024, followed by focus groups with external cooperators and clientele in the Summer/Fall 2024. The aim is to update and augment the 2023-2028 Cooperative Extension Implementation Plan. The CEOCC report is presented as **Appendix 5**.
- d). Monica York, Chief Business Officer & Christine Dias, Director, Finance/Administration. Business Officer York introduced Christine Dias, the new Director of Finance and Administration for CELS. Ms. York mentioned there would be a new email address for each of three Administrative Units. ALL initial emails should go through this group - questions, purchases, hires, P-cards, etc (**Appendix 6**). The aim is to cut down on issues if someone is out of the office or over extended. One of the fiscal staff should respond within a 24 hour period after your request is assigned to let you know exactly who will be handling the request from beginning until its resolution. The Business Office will follow up individually.

7). **Old Business:**

There was no old business.

8). **New Business:**

- a) Dean Kirby announced that he will retire sometime in 2025 and that efforts are beginning to search for a new dean
- b) Faculty Secretary Rice invited newly hired faculty to engage in the community of CELS governance by service on college committees. He noted that attention to personal P&T is of primary importance, but there are several 'light lift' committees appropriate for junior faculty membership that can help build and maintain the CELS Community.

9). **Adjournment:**

It was moved and seconded to Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Rice, CELS Faculty Secretary

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Appendix 1 -- CELS Diversity Committee

CELS DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

August 28th, 2024
 Chair:
 Outgoing: Amelia Moore
 Incoming: Sunshine Menezes

**Welcome New DC Chair
 SUNSHINE MENEZES!**

WELCOME NEW DC MEMBERS!

- Jamie Barrett, Post Doc
- Shannon Murphy, Staff
- Zoe Dellaert, Phd Student

UPDATES

- MEMBERS and SUBCOMMITTEES
- STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS
- STUDENT SUCCESS DISCUSSION SERIES
- FALL PLANS

MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

First name	Last name	Department
Austin	Becker	MMW
Harris	Bermudez	CELS Undergrad representative
Daniel	Carroll	CEO
Alex	Fajardo Grandjean	CELS Co-Chair
Claudia	Fallon	CMB
Amardo	Garcia	CELS Diversity & Student Success Initiatives RA
Toni	Quilley	EMEE
Maria	Huffman	PAWS
Kristy	Larsham	CELS Office of Academic & Student Affairs
Taylor	Lindsey	MSI Graduate Student representative
Bernardo	Martinez	NRS
Amelia	Mosimer	Cooperative Extension CMB
Amelia	Morris	MMW -Chair
Doreen	Oppend Dean	CMB
Michelle	Peach	NRS
Erin	Rosenwald	PSE
John	Taylor	PSE
Chris	Thompson	SEC
Kate	Verburin Handley	Cooperative Extension
Vanessa	Verburin	CELS Undergraduate representative
Cara	Woodcock	representative
Shelby	Wendthorn	SEC
Cham	Wings	CELS exec office

SUBCOMMITTEES

- Data Collection
- Faculty Support
- Professional Development
- Document Review

COMMUNITY INCLUSIVITY SURVEYS

CELS STUDENT Survey

- First of its kind sent out to undergraduate and graduate students
- Launched in 2/15/24 and closed on 4/15/24
- Over 200 students responded, including over 50% of our graduate student population
- Invite Aura to present results on your program!

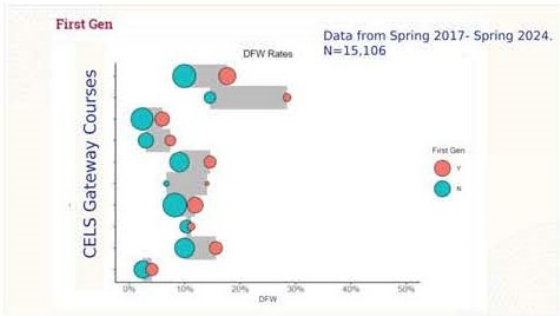
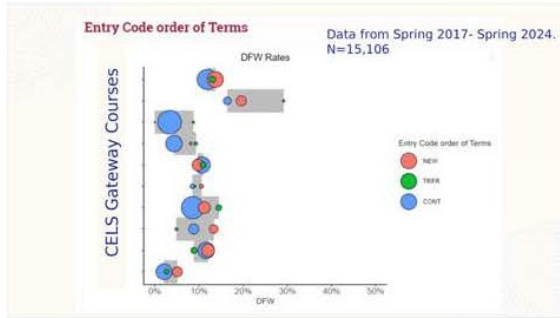
RESULTS

- High levels of chronic stress/anxiety across the board:
 - Academic and personal
- Students identified a need for structured mentorship!



STUDENT SUCCESS DISCUSSION SERIES

- Partnership with Inclusive Excellence HHMI Grant
- Led at URI by Becky Sartini, Todd Dresser, and Aura Fajardo Grandidge
- Student performance across all CELS gateway courses (BIO 101, AVS 101, MAF 100, NRS 100, PLS 150, GEO 100, EEC 105, CMB 201/211) from 2017 to 2024
- Data for multiple demographic categories (first generation,




FALL 2024

- Faculty Survey (December 2024)
- Faculty Mentoring Programming
- Meetings with Departments




- Contact us to plan student success discussions for your department!



THANK YOU

- Armando Garcia, CELS DC Graduate Student RA
- Aura Fajardo Grandidge, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Success Initiatives



SUGGESTION BOX

<https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/diversity-committee/>

As members of the URI CELS community, you may have suggestions for topics you would like the Diversity Committee (DC) to address, or learning opportunities you hope the DC might offer, or data you wish the DC would collect. This form is a way for you to share those suggestions. These suggestions should relate to issues of belonging, accessibility, justice, equity, diversity,

Appendix 2 - Curriculum Committee Report

CELS Curriculum Committee

Soni Pradhanang, Chair, GEO
Christopher Card, FAVS
Rachel Schwartz - BIO
Arnob Dutta- CMB
Hiro Uchida, ENRE
Alissa Cox- NRS
Bridget Ruenmele - PLS
Whitely Saumweber- MAF
Jane Buxton-LAR
Becky Sartini - *ex officio*

May 1,
2024

COURSES	CC STATUS
BIO191X First Yr Research in Biology	Approved
BTC522 Biotechnology Manufacturing for Life Science	Approved
BTC575 The Business Biotechnology	Approved
BTC595 Molecular Diagnostics	Approved
CMB537 Principles of Molecular Biology	Approved
CMB560 Experimental App in Mol & Cell Bio	Approved
EE C522 Computer Intensive Methods in Applied Economics	Approved
EE C576 Econometrics	Approved
EE C676 Advanced Econometrics	Approved
EV5510 Field Practicum in Coastal Resilience	Approved
MAF300 Race Gender Colonialism and Science	Approved
ML5501 Advanced Clinical Microbiology I	Approved

Course
Proposals:
25

COURSES	CC STATUS
ML5541 Advanced Clinical Microbiology II	Approved
ML5542 Advanced Clinical Microbiology Practicum	Approved
BE5510X Doing Ethnography	Approved
GEO222X Earthquakes and Volcanoes	Approved
MAF570 Introduction to Ocean Governance	Approved
BIO110 Fundamentals of Biology	Approved
BIO286 Humans, Insects, and Diseases	Approved
NRS223 Conservation Biology	Approved
NRS532 Graduate Principles of Onsite Wastewater Treatment	In Review
CPL450 Urban Design	In Review
CPL485 Environmental Planning	In Review
CPL501 Introduction to Community Planning Practice	In Review
CPL538 Site Planning	In Review

Course
Proposals

Program Proposals

Program Proposals	CC STATUS
Graduate Certificate in Cell and Molecular Biology	Approved
Graduate Certificate in Econometrics and Data Analysis	Approved
EnvironNaturaResourceEcon_BS	Approved

Using Quali to submit course proposals!

<https://web.uri.edu/facsen/curricular-matters/how-to-propose-a-new-course-using-quali-curriculum-management/>

<https://web.uri.edu/facsen/course-proposal-and-change/propose-a-new-program/>

Rachel Schwartz, Chair, BIO
Christopher Card - FAVS
Brian Savage - GEO
TBD - CMB
Emi Uchida - ENRE
Brett Still - NRS
Bridget Ruenmele - PLS
Rick Burroughs - MAF
Jane Buxton - LAR
Becky Sartini - *ex officio*
Cheryl Wilga - *ex officio*

Proposals for CAC review	CELS CAC Meeting Dates	Submission date for proposals for CASC	CASC Meeting Dates	Senate Meeting Dates
	September 5	September 9	<i>September 26</i>	October 10, 2024
September 12	September 19	October 14	<i>October 31</i>	November 14, 2024
October 17	October 24	November 4	<i>November 20</i>	December 12, 2024
November 7	November 14	December 2	<i>December 18</i>	January 23, 2025
<i>December 19</i>	<i>January 2</i>	January 13	<i>January 31</i>	February 13, 2025
<i>January 20</i>	<i>January 27</i>	February 3	<i>February 20</i>	March 6, 2025
February 24	<i>March 3</i>	March 10	<i>March 27</i>	April 10, 2025

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Appendix 3

2024 CELS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND OPENINGS

Faculty Secretary – Katherine Petersson, interim 2023-2024; Michael Rice 2024-2026

COMMITTEE'S DETERMINED BY DEPARTMENT– NO ELECTIONS NEEDED

Curriculum Committee - one member/dept - determined by dept

- BIO - Rachel Schwartz (2026) Chairperson, Fall 24 forward
- CMB - Arnob Dutta (2025)
- ENRE - Emi Uchida (2027)
- FAVS - Chris Card, (2025)
- GEO – Brian Savage (2026)
- LAR – Jane Buxton (2027)
- MAF – Rick Burroughs (2027)
- NRS - Brett Still (2027)
- PLE - Bridget Ruummele (2027)
- Becky Sartini, CELS Associate Dean Ex Officio

Research Committee - one member/dept - determined by dept

- BIO – Jason Kolbe (2026)
- BIO – Carlos Prada (2025)
- CMB – Niall Howlett (2026)
- ENRE – Penfei Liu, (2027)
- FAVS – Patrick Baur (2026)
- GEO – Chris Russoniello (2027)
- MAF – Lisa Hiwasaki (2027)
- NRS – Mark Stolt (2025)
- PLE – Rebecca Brown (2025)
- Cheryl Wilga, Associate Dean, *ex-officio*

Space Committee - one member/dept - determined by dept

- BIO – Hollie Putnam (2025)
- CMB – Joel Chandlee (2026)
- ENRE – Corey Lang (2025)
- FAVS – Justin Richard (2026)
- GEO – Ambarish Karmalkar (2027)
- MAF – Beth Mendenhall (2026)
- NRS – Tolani Olagundoye (2025)
- PLE/LAR – Tom Mather (2027)
- Cheryl Wilga, Associate Dean, *ex-officio*
- Jeff Ulricksen, Asst. Director of Spatial Services

Diversity Committee - one member/dept – they would like 2 members/dept

- BIO –Chris Thawley (2025), Brad Wetherbee (2027)
- CMB – Claudia Fallini (2026), Doreen Osgood-Dean (2026)

- ENRE – Todd Guilfoos (2027)
- FAVS – Maria Hoffman (2025)
- GEO – Dawn Cardace (2026)
- LAR – Courtney Goode (2027), Gavin Zeitz (2027)
- MAF – Amelia Moore (Co-Chair) (2026), Austin Becker (2025)
- NRS – Sunshine Menezes (2026), Michelle Peach (2025)
- PLE – Bridget Ruemmele (2027), John Taylor (2026)
- CELS - Aura Fajardo Grandidge (Co-Chair)
- CELS – Kate Venturini Hardesty, CE
- CELS – Vanessa Venturini, CE
- CELS – Kristy Levinson, Academic & Student Affairs
- CHS – NUT, CELS CE - Amanda Missimer
- CELS - Cheryl Wilga, Associate Dean, *ex-officio*
- MARC U*STAR - Meagan Pepper-Estes (rep)

Diversity Committee Student Representatives

- Harrit Bermudez – CELS undergraduate representative
- Cierra Westbrook – CELS undergraduate representative
- Armando Garcia – CELS Diversity & Student Success Initiatives RA
- Taylor Lindsay – BES graduate student representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ELECTED BY THE COLLEGE

Cooperative Extension and Outreach

The Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee shall be composed of two (2) elected faculty or senior staff members actively engaged in Cooperative Extension from different departments, five extramural cooperators, the Cooperative Extension program leaders and the Associate Dean for Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Programs who shall serve in an ex-officio capacity. The extramural members of the committee shall be appointed by the Dean for staggered three-year terms. Faculty and staff member terms

Elected Faculty & Professional Staff

- **Open Seat (2027)**
- [Elizabeth Herron](#) (NRS) (2025)

CE Administration and Program Leaders

- [Dr. Sarah Amin](#) (EFNEP and SNAP-Ed)
- [Dr. Tolani Olagundoye](#) (4-H)
- [Dr. Lisa Townson](#) (ex-officio)
- [Kate Venturini](#) (Mallon Center) *Chairperson*

Extramural CE Cooperators

- Pending
- Pending
- Pending

Commencement Committee - nominees selected by dept and elected by college

- **Open Seat (2027)**
- Coleen Suckling, FAVS, (2025)
- John Taylor, PLE (2026), Chairperson

- Kimberley M. Anderson, Assistant Dean, *ex-officio*
- Becky Sartini, Associate Dean, *ex-officio*

Bylaws Committee - nominees selected by dept and elected by college

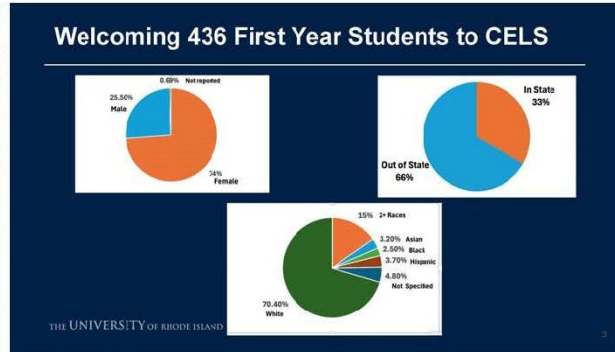
- Steve Alm PLE (2025)
- Parent, Jason, NRS (2026)
- **Mateja Nenadovic, MAF (2027) – Elected Spring 2024**

Faculty Senate - College of Environment and Life Sciences:

- William Gordon, Landscape Architecture (2025)
- Graham Forrester, Natural Resource Science (2025)
- David Bidwell, Marine Affairs (2025)
- Evan Preisser, Biological Sciences (2026)
- Alison Roberts, Biological Sciences (2026)
- Ying Zhang, Cell and Molecular Biology (2026)
- Lenore Martin, Cell and Molecular Biology (2027)
- Nathaniel Mitkowski, Plant Sciences and Entomology (2027)
- Michael Rice, Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science (2027)

Appendix 4

Report of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee Associate Dean Sartini



CELS First year student survey - BIO and AVS

Who's in Class Brightspace survey

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

FALL 2024 SAVE THE DATES

Move in Days
8/30 Weldin & 8/31 Barlow : 8:30-5:00 both days

Faculty Open House Orientation:
10/2: 12:00 -1:00

Open House
Sunday 10/6 and Saturday 11/16

Undergraduate Advisor Training
for CELS Graduate Programs & Certificates including 4+1 (ABM)
October 9th - 12-1



AI Fall Symposium

October 30th from 10:00am - 2:30pm
in the Memorial Student Union

What are you doing with AI in your classroom? Since ChatGPT sprung onto the scene, this is the question that we have all been grappling with.

Join us on October 30th as we will dig into this question collectively. During this Symposium, you will be able to learn from your peers about how they have been incorporating AI into their classrooms and also have time to explore AI for yourself. This day is for you if you have been asking yourself "What is everybody else doing?" Registration Coming Soon!



THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF TEACHING AND LEARNING



THANK YOU!



CJ Sanchez



Samantha Santos



Adrienne Taylor



Kristy Levinson



Michael Deus



Steven Marstjepovic

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

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Appendix 5 -- Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee Report

Cooperative Extension & Outreach Coordinating Committee

College of the Environment and Life Sciences
University of Rhode Island

August 28, 2024

Committee Members

Elected Faculty & Professional Staff

Elizabeth Herron	Department of Natural Resources Science
Rebecca Brown	Department of Plant Sciences & Entomology (<i>outgoing</i>)
Alissa Cox	Department of Natural Resources Science (<i>incoming</i>)

CE Administration and Program Leaders

Sarah Amin	Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
Tolani Olagundoye	4-H Youth Development Program
Lisa Townson	Dean's Office (<i>ex officio</i>)
Kate Hardesty	Mallon Center Program Administrator (<i>Chair</i>)

Extramural CE Cooperators

TBC (5)

2024 CoopExt Needs Assessment

- ★ Do our **strategic areas of focus and goals** cover the needs of the state?
- ★ Where might we **pivot** towards new initiatives and/or **expand or scale back** existing programming?



2024 CoopExt Needs Assessment

STEP 1:

Internal Retreat | March 15, 2024

SOAR-U analysis:

Strengths • Opportunities • Aspirations • Resources • URI opps

STEP 2:

External Focus groups - Summer / Fall 2024



2023-2028 CoopExt Implementation Plan



Appendix 6 -- CELS Business Office

Support Staff

Contact support staff for:

- Hiring & student payroll
- Travel authorization & expense reports
- P-card reconciliation & purchasing

Unit 1

Coordinator: Christen Hodgkinson

Support Staff: Katherine Favreau
Emily Gauthier

Contact Emails

Timesheets: cels_unit_1@etal.uri.edu

All other requests: CELS-Unit1-Group@uri.edu

Unit 2

Coordinator: Kimberly Boudreau

Support Staff: Suraj Pillai
Nancy Bonin-Kellogg

Contact Emails

Timesheets: cels_unit_2@etal.uri.edu

All other requests: CELS-Unit2-Group@uri.edu

Unit 3

Coordinator: *vacant*

Support Staff: Melissa Russell
Afsaneh "Sanna" Williston

Contact Emails

Timesheets: payroll-bio-cmb@etal.uri.edu

Hiring requests: celsunit3hiring@etal.uri.edu

All other requests: CELS-Unit3-Group@uri.edu

Mallon Center/Extension Support: Mamie Chen

Fee for Service & Cost Center Account Support: Emily Markey



Research Team

Business Manager, Research Operations:
Cherie Conover

Sr. Scientific Research Grant Assistant:
Toni Carreiro Fogleman

Pre-Award Specialists:
Kathy Gray
Jane Karako

Post-Award Specialists:
vacant

Research Resources

Pre-Award Form

CELS BRR Intake Form

Research Resources Website

Updated 8/28/24

