

Minutes of the March 18th, 2024, 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 1:00 PM in CBLS 435. Members present were Department Chairs Becker, Boving, Brown, Chandlee, Lane, Petersson and Uchida; Associate Deans Sartini and Wilga, Director Finance/Administration Christine Dias, Executive Assistant to the Dean Judy Palmer and Skip Wilson ex officio members with Dean John Kirby presiding.

Announcements/Updates:

Dean Kirby

1. Dean Kirby submitted 12-15 positions he received from CELS departments to URI Administration. It is unclear at this point what the process for the awarding of positions will be.
2. Dean Kirby will be attending a budget presentation on April 3rd. It is hoped that more information will be forthcoming on the new budget process and allocation of resources.
3. Institutional Research is in the process of finalizing student credit hours per faculty member for each department. This will be information that will be available on the IBB Dashboard that Chairs will have access to.
4. Some percentage of the budget will be based on meeting performance metrics related to the URI Strategic Plan key performance indicators (KPIs)
 - a. Some loading of teaching positions is expected, but we must meet the KPI's.
 - b. The CELS unit structure will be kept in place at this point.
 - c. Some potential examples of key performance metrics include (final list has not been released)
 - i. Journals in top 10% of field – (difficult to define)
 - ii. Persistence of students
 - iii. Number of graduate students
 - iv. Growth of non-thesis masters
 - v. Reducing equity gaps for Pell-eligible students
 - vi. Relevant statistics that indicate stature in the field
5. Web of Science training is available on campus to understand the underlying metrics.
6. The Rhode Island State Government is moving to the WorkDay platform. This will eventually replace PeopleSoft at URI. It is expected that in 3-4 years we will start phasing out PeopleSoft.
7. Promotion and Tenure process – there needs to be an increase in departmental participation.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. The second IT position has posted and there are some good candidates.
2. The report from NACADA on recommendations on a new undergraduate advising model is expected within weeks.
3. Collapsing of individual faculty sections of major specific experiential learning courses into one section is open to departments and is expected to avoid low enrollment course penalties in the new budget model.
4. Promotion and Tenure process
 - a. Guidelines need to be consistent with contract
 - b. One size does not fit all. The Provost's Office would like to see each department re-visit their P&T guidelines to clearly outline expectations so that faculty have a clearer understanding of what they need to do to be successful. The guidelines should be kept general and there needs to be faculty agreement. They cannot be retroactive.

Christine Dias

1. Cheri Conover has been hired as the new Business Manager for Research.
2. The CELS support team is now fully staffed. Six new people have started since January 1st.
3. CELS Support Staff will be taking lunch every day from 12-1
4. The search for the CELS Chief Business Officer is undergoing its' last round of interviews.

Skip Wilson

1. The URI Campaign is approaching the final 3 month quarter of its' eight year campaign. There is \$5M left to raise. They will have raised \$300M by June 30th.
2. The CBLS building will be renamed the Joseph '56 and Ruby DeChristofaro Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The DiChristofaro donation will also support an Award for Scholarly Excellence and Distinguished Endowed Faculty Fund in Molecular Life and Neurosciences.

New Business: There was no new business.

Old Business: There was no old business.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katherine Petersson, Interim Faculty Secretary