

Minutes of the April 1, 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 CBL5 435. Members present were Department Chairs Becker, Boving, Brown, Chandlee, Lane, Petersson and Uchida; Associate Deans Sartini, Townson, and Wilga, Executive Assistant to the Dean Judy Palmer and Skip Wilson ex officio members with Dean John Kirby presiding.

A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of the Executive Council on March 18th was made by Chris Lane (BIO) and seconded by Rebecca Brown (PSE, LAR). All members present voted unanimously to approve.

Announcements/Updates:

Dean Kirby

1. Meetings between the each CELS Department Chair, Dean Kirby and Provost Wolfe, to discuss the results from each departments Academic Program Review, will occur in May.
2. The President of the Faculty Senate is attempting to shorten up the timeline from curriculum submission to approval by standardization of formats across the university. CELS Chairs expressed that that CELS Curricular process was currently well standardized with the Faculty Senate calendar.
3. The new CELS Chief Budget Officer, Monica York, will be starting on April 15th. More information will be forthcoming.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. The report from NACADA on recommendations on a new undergraduate advising model is expected the week of April 8th, 2024.
2. An email will be sent out to all current and upcoming CELS URI 101 instructors to get feedback on the current UCAS contribution to the URI 101 courses. It is hoped that CELS will be able manage these courses within CELS with the goal of ultimately customization of these courses to better suit the needs of our students within CELS.
3. Faculty workload meetings are ongoing with department Chairs. All changes to faculty workloads are due by April 22nd. After this date, workload letters will be sent out for faculty signatures.
 - a. Department Chair Lane suggested that the timeline of faculty workload submissions should be moved to earlier in the year (February 1st) to finalize the workloads before the registration for fall classes commences in March. This will result in fewer changes to the course schedules after the start of class registration each spring. There was consensus around this idea with plans to launch the new timeline for workload submission in AY 24/25.
4. There are three openings for URI Faculty Senators. Katherine Petersson will be collecting names of faculty interested in running for these elected seats from CELS Department Chairs. An electronic ballot for these seats will be distributed to CELS faculty the week of April 8th.

Associate Dean Townson

1. The Communication Fellows are requesting ideas for special interest stories from departments.
2. It is anticipated that the new CELS IT hire will start in the third week in April.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. Christine Dias will be sending out an email updating CELS faculty on the new staff hires.

New Business: There was no new business.

Old Business: There was no old business.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katherine Petersson, Interim Faculty Secretary