

Minutes of the November 4, 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 10:00AM in CBL 435. Members present were Department Chairs Becker, Boving, Brown, Chandlee, Forrester, Lane, Petersson, and E. Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, Townson (arrived 10:30am), and Wilga; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer and York. *Ex-officio* member Wilson and Dean Kirby were absent. Associate Dean Sartini presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Lane and seconded by Becker to approve the October 7, 2024, Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously with minor correction of typo.*

Announcements:

Associate Dean Sartini

1. Associate Dean Sartini deferred to Business Manager *Monica York*
2. York discussed an upcoming survey of space usage and support equipment in labs and other research facilities as part of a renegotiation of the research 'overhead rates' allowed by federal granting agencies. Necessary data includes numbers and status of users of research space, including greenhouse and animal care facilities at the satellite farm facilities.
3. Chairperson Brown inquired if there could be a posted table of Chartfield streams (CFSs) associated with project numbers to assist in cross-referencing. York responded that she'd investigate it.
4. York reported that a new hire of a post-award grant administrator began in late October, and there is another open search for additional fiscal staff in CELS.
5. Associate Dean Sartini announced that Susan Adams has replaced Anne Veeger as Vice Provost, and she has the point position on faculty reviews.
6. There was a discussion of faculty peer review and timing within the Interfolio System
7. Associate Dean Sartini discussed the upcoming migration of voice telecommunications from Cisco to Webex that should be less expensive, and it will be woven into the email and internet browser systems. Chairs expressed concern about how it might work. Sartini suggested setting up a formal workshop with Glenn Carlsson to discuss details.
8. Associate Dean Sartini mentioned that Course descriptions for internship, special problems and independent study courses across CELS need to be standardized to avoid confusion among students often taking multiple majors.

Associate Dean Wilga Had nothing to report

Associate Dean Townson

1. Associate Dean Townson announced that a Rhode Island Food Summit is in advanced planning stages, Cooperative Extension will be taking a leadership role in these statewide events going forward.

New Business:

1. There was no new business

Old Business:

1. Chairperson Lane inquired as to any new information about the university-wide budget meeting. Sartini responded that there are no details about new budget information. There will be no new CFSs until December.
2. There were no updates about progress of renegotiating new overhead rates. Current research overhead rates remain in force and researchers are required to use on-campus rates unless all the research is done off campus without use of university space, facilities or equipment.

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, CELS Faculty Secretary

DRAFT