

MINUTES

CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting – May 2, 2018

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 in CBLS 100, Dean John Kirby presiding. The following faculty and professional staff members were present: Abedon, Adams, Anderson, August, Bidwell, Blackwood, Bozzi, Brackee, Brown D, Brown R, Camberg, Cardace, Cary, Chen, Conover, Dalton, Dewsbury, Duhaime, Fastovsky, Faubert, Forrester L, Frazier, Garber, Ginsburg, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Grandidge, Green, Greene, Gregory, Greno-Garnelidis, Hamidzada, Herron, Hoffman, Irvine, Joubert, Karako, Kirby, Klitz, Kolbe, LaBash, Laliberte, Lane, Lang, LeBrun, Lin, Martin, Mather T, Maynard, McGreevy, McLeanMcWilliams, Mendenhall, Menezes, Morreira, Morris, Norris, Palmer, Pargellis, Paton, Prada, Pradhanang, Preisser, Prior, Puritz, Putnam, Radin, Rice, Richard, Roberts, Savage, Sheely, Sherman, Silvia, Southern, Still, Stolt, Sullivan, Sun, Taylor, Thompson, Thornber, Trandafir, Uchida E, Uchida H, Veeger, Vieira, Webb, Wetherbee, Wang, and Zhang Y.
2. *The Minutes from the January 19, 2018 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were moved for approval and seconded then approved by unanimous voice vote.*
3. Announcements:
 - a. Dean Kirby announced two new faculty members joining CELS: Maria Hoffman, FAVS; Melva Trevino Peña - MAF Multicultural Faculty Fellow.
 - b. The 2018 CELS Excellence Awards were announced: Brad Wetherbee, Teaching Excellence Award; Denise Brown -- Staff Excellence Award; Linda Green -- Outreach Excellence Award; and Chris Lane -- Research Excellence Award.
 - c. Laura Meyerson was recognized for receiving a Fulbright Research Fellowship to conduct research in Argentina, Czech Republic and South Africa.
 - d. The 2018 CELS recipients of the URI Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Awards were announced: Michelle Fontes-Barros -- Staff Excellence; Amelia Moore -- Faculty Excellence.
 - e. The 2018 CELS recipients of the URI Council for Research Awards were announced: Austin Becker -- Early Career Faculty, Social Sciences; Bethany Jenkins -- Advanced Career Faculty Life Science; Alex Baranowski -- Undergraduate Award; Peter Stempel -- Excellence Award in the Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities; Chad Rigsby -- Excellence Award in the Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering.
 - f. The 2018 CELS recipient of the URI Foundation Part-time Faculty Teaching Excellence Award was Neils Viggo-Hobbes, Biological Sciences.
4. Dean Kirby introduced the new Vice President for Research and Economic Development Dr. Peter Snyder who spoke on the topic of a renewed service commitment from the Division of Research and Economic Development. Dr. Snyder is an active researcher coming to URI from the Lifespan Hospital System. As an active researcher himself establishing his lab here at he is well-aware of needs of an effective support structure in growing the research enterprise. He announced that there will be a number of initiatives aimed at increasing the internal efficiency of the Division, including a "merging" pre-award and post-award databases to eliminate time consuming manual reentry of data due to incompatible software systems with a goal of tracking projects from first conception and logging with the Research Office all the way through implementation, and fiscal closeout and final signoff by the granting agency. Dr. Snyder was welcoming of all faculty input about how the Division can serve the CELS research community better.

5. Dean Kirby had invited Dr. Lori Ciccomascolo, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs to speak on the topic of Student Rights and Responsibilities while balancing the safety of the campus community, but she was unable to attend this meeting. Dean Kirby explained that there were two CELS graduate students charged with felonious activities (a coincidence of two very rare unrelated events) that were placed on 'administrative leave' by the University in regard to teaching and work-related activities. However, while the criminal justice process and proceedings are being conducted, the students are presumed innocent and are allowed to attend class and pursue their studies. There has been concern about campus safety related to this situation, but this concern needs to be balanced with the rights of the accused. The Division of Student Affairs has produced a guide for such matters in the "Let's A.N.C.H.O.R. (Assess, Needs, Care, Help, Outreach, Resources) Our Rams" Program (see: <https://web.uri.edu/deanofstudents/files/ANCHOR.pdf>). The program & guide provides information for managing and contacts for assistance for issues ranging from minor mental stress management among members of the campus community to immediate clear and present danger and has appropriate contact information for each. All are encouraged to become familiar with the ANCHOR Program.
6. Dean Kirby introduced Brandon Sousa and Lisa Kousmanen, of the Center for Career and Experiential Education. They explained the services that they provide students, including tips on resume preparation, mock interviews, seeking paid employment and arranging internship opportunities. M. Sousa and Ms. Kousmanen offered to spend a class period as "fill-in" instructors in any undergraduate class if the instructor is called away to a meeting and might otherwise be canceling the class. It may be an excellent opportunity to allow the students to become more aware of the range of services that their office offers.
7. Faculty Elections:
 - a. Faculty Secretary Rice reported the results of the recent election of Faculty Senators and reminded the CELS Faculty that according to RI General Laws (Sec 16-32-10) "a committee of the faculty" and the president are jointly responsible for formation **all** academic policies (teaching, research, student conduct, visiting scholars, admissions, etc.) of the University. Based upon new apportionment accounting for several new faculty hires, CELS is now entitled to eight Senators. With one senate resignation earlier in 2018, CELS had four open seats to fill in the 2018 elections. In the electronic elections held in the previous week with five ballots cast, three new senators were elected with terms ending May 2021. They are Senator Joel Chandlee (CMB); Senator Bridget Ruemmele (PLE); and Senator Becky Sartini (FAVS). The CELS Senate seat with term ending May 2020, remained unfilled.

Faculty Secretary Rice opened the floor to nominations to fill the seat. There was none. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. The motion was passed unanimously.

Faculty Secretary Rice stated that he would report to the Faculty Senate Office that CELS will be beginning the 2018-19 Academic year with only seven sitting senators.

- b. Faculty Secretary Rice presented the slate of candidates for CELS College Committees (See slate in Appendix 1). All seats for CELS Committees were unopposed in the slate.

Faculty Secretary Rice opened the floor for nominations for candidates for any of the committees. There was none. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

There was a motion and a second to accept the slate of candidates in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Reports of Standing Committees:

- a. Curriculum Committee: The Curriculum Committee report was given by Prof. Rebecca Brown. He reported that several courses were approved and forwarded on to the CAC. The Committee report is attached as Appendix 2.
- b. Professor Brown provided the report of the Commencement Committee. The committee is working diligently on preparations for the CELS Undergraduate Ceremony to be held at the Ryan Center at 3:00PM on Saturday May 19. Details of her report can be found here: http://web.uri.edu/celsgov/files/CELS_Commencement_2018.pdf and in Appendix 3. All faculty are encouraged to attend the commencement ceremonies in May.
- c. Research Committee: Prof. Gomez-Chiarri gave the report of the Research Committee. Her report is presented in Appendix 4.
- d. There was no report of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee at this time
- e. Associate Dean Thornber filling in for the Chair provided a brief report of the Space Committee activities over the last year. There is an initiative to upgrade the electronic inventory of CELS assigned space. There is a large space demand due to new faculty hires, exacerbated by a campus-wide space shortage due to the engineering building construction.
- f. There was no report from the Bylaws and Review Committee at this time
- g. There was no report from the Diversity Committee at this time
- h. There was no report from the Scholastic Standing Committee at this time

7. Old Business:

There was no old business

8. New Business:

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Rice, Secretary of the CELS Faculty

APPENDIX 1

Spring 2018 CELS Faculty Committee Election Slate *for seats expiring 2021 unless noted otherwise*

Asterisks denote incumbent candidates.

1) CELS Curriculum Committee (three open seats)

Rebecca Brown* (PLE) Nancy Karraker* (NRS) Todd Guilfoos (ENRE)

2) CELS Space Committee (two open seats)

Thomas Mather* (PLE) Dawn Cardace (GEO)

3) CELS Research Committee (two open seats)

David Bidwell (MAF) Thomas Sproul (ENRE)

4) CELS Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee (one open seat)

Rebecca Brown* (PLE)

5) CELS Commencement Committee (one open seat)

Jodi Camberg* (CMB)

6) CELS Bylaws & Review Committee (one open seat)

Katherine Petersson* (FAVS)

APPENDIX 2 CELS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

- Sent to faculty senate in 2017-18
 - 45 new or modified UG courses
 - 19 new or modified GRAD courses
 - 10 X courses
 - 10 changes to existing programs
 - 3 new programs – Peace Corp Prep, Grad Cert. in Fisheries approved
 - Grad Certificate in Science Writing stalled

APPROVED GEN ED COURSES

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • CMB 265G: A1, B4, GC | • AFS 300: D1 |
| • BIO 256G: A1, C2, GC | • AFS 440: D1 |
| • EEC 432: B4, D1 | • AVS 472: D1 |
| • GEO 100G: A1, C2, GC | • PLS 324: B4, D1 |
| • BIO 482G: B1, D1, GC | • AVS/NFS/SAF 404: D1 |
| • MAF 300: A3, C3 | • AVS 443: D1 |
| • NRS 330G: A1, C2, GC | • MAF 373: C3 |

LOOKING FORWARD

- X courses can be submitted and reviewed over the summer
- All proposals from April CAC meeting will be on the agenda for September University CAC meeting
- Next CELS CAC meeting in early September, proposals due by August 30

APPENDIX 3
CELS COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Commencement
Committee

- **CELS Commencement Saturday May 19th**
3:00pm Ryan Center (Faculty in line by 2:30!!!)
- **URI Commencement Sunday May 20th**
12:30pm on the Quad
- **CELS Reception Sunday May 20th ~2:30 pm**
CBL5 – Regalia NOT required!!

APPENDIX 4
CELS RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT



CELS Research Committee

Marta Gomez-Chiarri (Chair, FAVS); David Bidwell (MAF), Simon Engelhart (GEO), Niall Howlett (CMB), Jason Kolbe (BIO), Scott McWilliams (NRS), Jim Opaluch (ENRE – represented by Hiro Uchida, Spring 2018), Carol Thornber (Ex-officio)

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF
THE ENVIRONMENT
AND LIFE SCIENCES

THINK BIG  WE DO



CELS Research Committee

Develop strategic plan for CELS research

- Potential areas of focus**
- Barriers to research**
- Creative ideas for galvanizing research**



CELS Research Committee

Potential broad areas of focus (areas of synergy)

- Environmental Health
- Environmental/Climate Change
- From Genomes to Ecosystems
- Sustainable Systems
- Science Education, Communication, Extension

Particular strengths

- Incorporation of social sciences into basic research (coupled nature-human systems)
- Modeling, quantitative, molecular, genomic approaches
- Integration of research, extension, teaching; community engagement



CELS Research Committee

Some barriers to CELS research mission

- Competing priorities that compromise research (e.g. teaching, advising, admin)
- Conflicting advice to junior faculty on priorities
- Not enough administrative support (e.g. travel, post-grant admin)
- Need for more computational and quantitative analysis resources (e.g. HPC)



CELS Research Committee

Some creative ideas for galvanizing research

-Innovative approaches to:

- Increase communication about research/outreach/extension within and beyond CELS
- Develop collaborative/integrative research projects and grants

-White papers to propose how to invest in focus areas (*e.g.* seed funding, positions)

-Expand formalized agreements with funding agencies (*e.g.* RIDEM, RIDOH, EPA)

-Mechanisms for improved mentoring of junior faculty



We are looking for your feedback – due May 10

Contact your representative or gomezchi@uri.edu

(let us know if you would like to keep any comments confidential)