

MINUTES

CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting – December 11, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2018 in CBLS 100, Associate Dean Deborah Sheely presiding in the initial absence of Dean Kirby. The following faculty and professional staff members were present: Adams, Addy, Anderson, Becker, Bourassa, Boving, Bozzi, Brown D, Burroughs, Camberg, Card, Cardace, Carlson, Cary, Chandlee, Couret, Dalton, Davies, Davis, Dewsbury, Diamante, Duhaime, Dutta, Fastovsky, Fontes, Forrester L, Frazier, Ginsberg, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Grandidge, Grandy, Greene, Gregory, Howlett, Irvine, Jenkins, Karako, Karraker, Kirby, Kolbe, Laliberte, Lane, Lang, Legare, LeBrun, Menezes, Moore, Morris, Muhitch, Nelson, Osgood-Dean, Palmer, Parent, Paton, Petersson, Phillips, Placido, Prada, Prior, Proestu, Puritz, Putnam, Radin, Rice, Richard, Roberts, Ruemmele, Russell, Savage, Schwartz, Sheely, Silvia, Skidds, Skrobe, Smallridge, Sothern, Sproul, Stolt, Suckling, Sullivan, Tewksbury, Thompson, Thornber, Trandafir, Travis, Trebino, Trevino-Pena, Uchida E, Uchida H, Van Sciver, Venturini K, Vetovis, and Wetherbee.
2. *The Minutes from the May 13, 2019 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were presented for approval and were approved without objection.*
3. Announcements:
 - a. Associate Dean Sheely introduced New Hires into CELS: Claudia Fallini, CMB/Neuroscience Assistant Professor; Doreen Osgood CMB, Assistant Clinical Professor; Pengfei Liu ENRE Assistant Professor; Jason Parent NRS, Assistant Professor; Ananya Mallik GEO Assistant Professor; Kathryn Ramsey CMB, Assistant Professor; Amanda Missimer NFS/CE Assistant Clinical Professor; Bradley Wetherbee BIO Assistant Professor; and Melva Trevino-Pena MAF, Assistant Professor.
 - b. Associate Dean Sheely shared the New Retirements from CELS: Dr. James Opaluch, ENRE; Dr. Peter August, NRS; Dr. Anthony Mallilo, FAVS; Dr. Lori Pivarnik, FAVS; and Marcia Morreira, State 4H Program Leader
 - c. Associate Dean Sheely announce that Michelle Fontes was promoted to Assistant Dean for Diversity and Student Success Initiatives
 - d. Associate Dean Sheely introduced the guest speaker, Gerard Holder, Assistant Director of the URI Affirmative Action Office. Mr. Holder spoke on the duties of a URI Responsible Employee in the proper reporting of sexual assault, and other Title IX violations. Details of the content of his presentation are available from the Affirmative Action Office at: <https://web.uri.edu/affirmativeaction/files/URI-Responsible-Employee-Info-Sheet.pdf>
 - e. Students from the Metcalf Institute in the Communications Fellow Program, Sean Grandy and Gabriella Placido, provided a report on their effort to maintain CELS web presence and to maintain the social media accounts. Faculty and staff were urged to send along news and ideas for content along to them. An overview of the presentation is provided in Appendix 1.

4. Reports of Standing Committees:

- a. Curriculum Committee: The Curriculum Committee report was given by Prof. Robert Thompson in the absence of the chairperson, 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. Research Committee: Prof. Howlett gave the report of the Research Committee. He thanked committee members for their service and provided a brief report presented in Appendix 3.
- c. Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee: Committee Chairperson Kate Venturini presented the committee report that can be found in Appendix 4.
- d. Space Committee: Committee chairperson, Prof. Dawn Cardace presented a brief report from the committee. Considerable progress has been made in the assignment of needed space for the new faculty hires.
- e. Professor Trandafir provided a short report of the Commencement Committee. She stated that planning for the 2020 Commencement will begin early in the new year.
- f. Professor Jessica Frazier stated that the Bylaws and Review Committee had nothing to report.
- g. Diversity Committee Chairperson Prof. Janelle Couret provided the report of the Diversity Committee. She thanked CELS community members who participated in a survey they conducted about diversity and inclusion in the college. Data are presented in Appendix 5. The data will be used to make recommendations to the dean. There will be a series of professional workshops on inclusion to be held during the fall semester. All CELS community members are invited to attend.
- h. Assistant Dean Kim Anderson provided a report from the Scholastic Standing Committee that discussed numbers of students facing academic sanctions or at risk. Data about trends over the last five years are presented in Appendix 6.

7. Old Business:

There was no old business

8. New Business:

- a. Professor Nancy Karraker mentioned that the Graduate Writing Center is open and available to all CELS graduate students. It is very useful for one-on-one tutoring and support for English Language Learners. See more information at: <https://web.uri.edu/graduate-writing-center/>
- b. Dean Kirby arrived from the Council of Deans Meeting and he wished all in the college a happy holiday season. He mentioned that a key concern at the Council of Deans was about flagging graduate enrollment and possible ways to overcome this problem.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Rice, Secretary of the CELS Faculty

APPENDIX 1 – METCALF INSTITUTE AND CELS WEB PRESENCE

CELS Communications Fellows

CELS-info@etal.uri.edu

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND

COLLEGE OF
THE ENVIRONMENT
AND LIFE SCIENCES

Metcalf
Metcalf Institute
for Marine & Environmental
Reporting

CELS Communications Fellows



- CELS Big Thinker profiles
- Newsletter
- Events Calendar
- Social Media

 @URICELS

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CELS Communications Fellows

CELS-info@etal.uri.edu

We'd love to know about:

- Lecture series, Special events
- Awards, Scholarships, Grants
- Class outings, Field work
- When your research relates to current news

CELS Communications Fellows

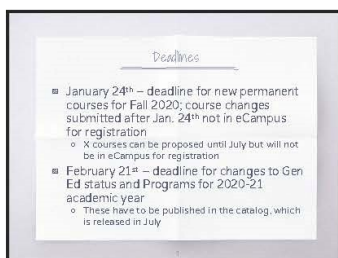
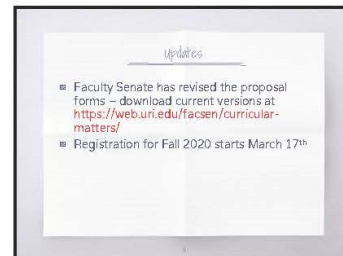
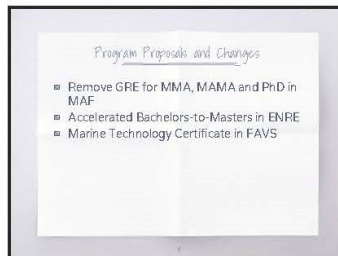
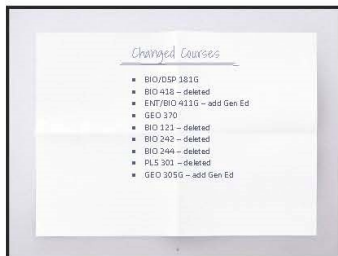
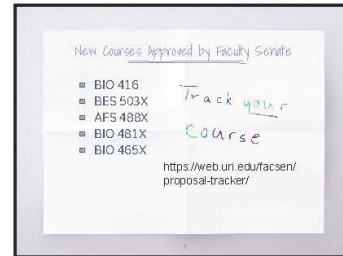
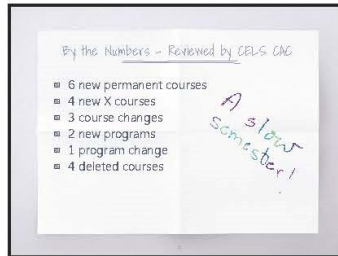
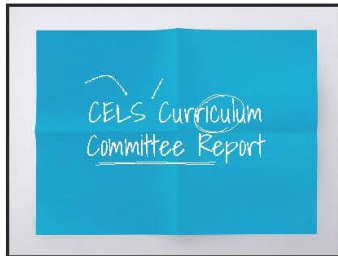
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APPENDIX 2 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT



APPENDIX 3 RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

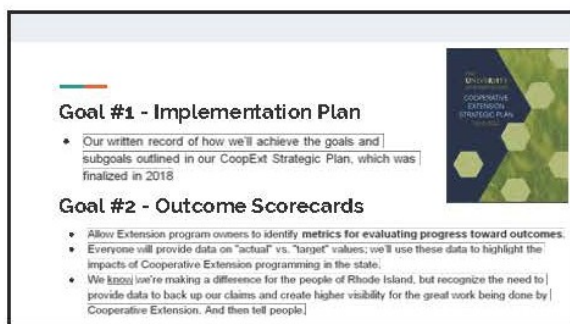
CELS Research Committee - Fall 2019

Members: Thomas Boving, Niall Howlett (Chair), Jason Kolbe, Elizabeth Mendenhall, Carlos Prada Montoya, Tom Sproul, Mark Stolt, Carol Thornber (*ex officio*)

Graduate Training Programs – General Guidelines

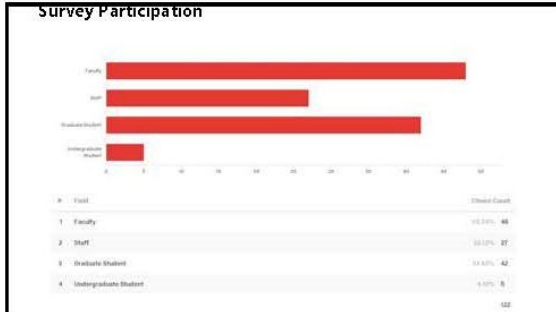
- Require strong institutional support
- Focus on technical, operational and professional skills development
- Emphasize computational, statistical, and quantitative approaches
- Promote rigor and reproducibility in research
- Teach the responsible and safe conduct of research
- Promote diversity, equity and inclusion
- Encourage inclusive, safe, and supportive research environments
- Use evidence-based educational and mentoring practices
- Employ cohort-building activities and interventions that enhance the trainees' science identity and self-efficacy
- Provide individualized mentoring and oversight throughout
- Introduce trainees to a variety of scientific research areas and careers
- Promote graduate student wellness and resilience
- Collect and disseminate data on the success/failure of educational aims (evaluation & assessment); make career outcomes publicly available

APPENDIX 4 – EXTENSION AND OUTREACH COORDINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



Outcome	Metric	2019 Actual	2019 Target	2020 Target	2021 Target
URI students are aware of career opportunities in the sustainable energy industry. These students understand the benefits of participating in an experiential learning program like the URI Energy Fellows Program in a given year.	Number of participating student applications to the URI Energy Fellows Program in a given year	33	40	45	50
Businesses, nonprofit organizations, state and local government officials and URI faculty and staff working in the New England clean energy sector are aware of the value of the URI Energy Fellows Program to their organization/research area.	Number of Energy Fellows Program members or mentor organizations serving in a given year	0	12	15	17
URI Energy Fellows Program alumni demonstrate increased capacity to enter the complex clean energy workforce and address real-world energy issues.	% annual survey respondents currently working in clean energy sector (from survey distributed to URI graduates within last 5 years)	N/A	30%	30%	30%
Rhode Island citizens have a basic understanding of the energy system, including the importance of implementing energy efficiency and conservation, and the implications and benefits of clean energy production, after participating in CoopExt programming.	Number of participants attending Cooperative Extension educational programs	507	100	150	200
	% survey respondents who increased their knowledge of topics related to the energy system after attending a CoopExt educational program (based on pre- and post-test results)	45%*	55%	60%	65%

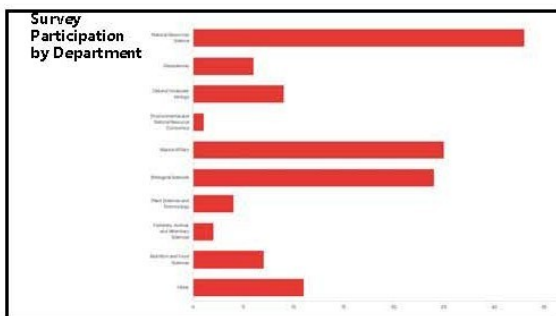
APPENDIX 5 DIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORT



Needs Identified

- Implicit bias training
- Concrete strategies to be more inclusive
- How to be a more effective ally
- How to address cultural influences in research
- Increasing access to opportunities in higher education/STEM for historically groups
- Inclusivity for less visible groups (i.e. LGBTQI and invisible disabilities)

Our response: Develop a seminar discussion series around these launching in Spring 2020



Quick Overview of Results

- 52% of respondents are not satisfied with available support in CDS for diversity and inclusion issues because:
- "We just don't know about any resources or initiatives"
 - "We don't have enough diverse students or faculty"
 - "We have a lack of capacity for recruitment, a lack of capacity for retention and we lack clear vision as to what diversity and inclusion gets"
 - "We lack support for mental health issues, disability, and poverty"
 - "There is a general lack of awareness or will within CDS to support or incentivize change among the faculty"
- *Most students and faculty feel supported by faculty, but for the 15% that do not and the 15% that only somewhat do, the main reasons are:
- "Lack of collaboration or meaningful interactions with faculty"
 - "Lack of faculty priority"
 - "The 'you're not this kind of treatment' (when it's a student or junior faculty) so you should 'be' mentally"
 - "Not enough value being placed on support for inclusive efforts"
 - "Wide variability in degrees of student support from faculty"
 - "Concentrate the students care more about these issues than faculty"

APPENDIX 6 SCHOLASTIC STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

CELS Scholastic Standing Committee Meeting- Thursday, January 9, 2020, 9:00am-Noon, 130 CBLS

Committee Members

Assoc. Dean-Chair

Asst. Dean – Ex-officio

CELS Faculty - Ad Hoc members are drawn from the departments of the students being reviewed. Faculty can meet with CELS professional advisors prior to the SSC meeting to review student information

		Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Fall 2018	Spring 2019
ELSCI	Probation	38	27	26	21	21	22	27	25	23	11
ELSCI	Conditional	1	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
ELSCI	Dismissal	6	2	4	3	1	2	2	1	3	4
ELSCI	Total	45	30	32	24	22	24	32	27	26	15
ELSCI	At Risk- Term below 2.0 CUM Above 2.0					87	68	75	106	86	89