

MINUTES

CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting – April 29, 2020

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 via Webex web meeting platform, with Dean Kirby presiding. Approximately 90 members of the CELS community were in attendance.
2. *The Minutes from the December 11, 2019 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were presented for approval and were approved without objection.*
3. Announcements:
 - a. Dean Kirby introduced a general discussion of issues associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, including the electronic delivery of classes in the current semester, grade assignments for students, news from the deans council, summer class on-line delivery, and the likelihood for electronic delivery of classes in the fall. Discussion ensued about implications for the CELS budget and contingency planning.
4. Faculty Elections:
 - a. Faculty Secretary Rice thanked outgoing senators, Martin and Sproul whose terms end in May 2020.
 - b. The results of the CELS senatorial election held by electronic balloting were announced. New senators with terms ending in May 2023 are: Sen. Evan Preisser (BIO), Sen. Michael Rice (FAVS), and Sen. Ying Zhang (2023).
 - c. The slate of candidates for the CELS Representative on the Graduate Council and vacant seats on CELS committees was presented. There were one candidate for each of the vacant seats.

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 slate was adopted by unanimous acclamation.

Election results for terms ending in May 2023 are as follows:

- 1) CELS Representative to the URI Graduate Council: Bethany Jenkins (CMB)
- 2) Curriculum Committee: Pengfeng Liu (ENRE) (replacing Todd Guilfoos for term ending 2021), Steven Irvine (BIO), Soni Pradhang (GEO)
- 3) Research Committee: Jason Kolbe (BIO), Niall Howlett (CMB), Marta Gomez-Chiarri (FAVS)
- 4) Space Committee: Joel Chandlee (CMB), Austin Humphries (FAVS)
- 5) Commencement Committee: John Taylor (PLE)
- 6) Bylaws Committee: Jessica Frazier (MAF)

5. 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 1.
 - b. Professor Niall Howlett provided the report of the Research Committee. Recommendations of the Committee were made concerning the definition of 'essential research' and recommendations to CELS principal investigators on how to handle safety issues during the pandemic in compliance with state orders.

- c. Ms. Kate Venturini provided the report of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Committee. The URI Cooperative Extension has been compiling coronavirus resources for farm communities and the general public. These can be found on the RI-CE web page here: <https://web.uri.edu/coopext/>
- e. Committee Chair Prof. Dawn Cardace provided a brief report on the activities of the Space Committee.
- f. Committee Chair Prof. Simona Trandafir provided a brief report on the activities of the Commencement Committee. Under discussion is how in some way the CELS Community can honor our 2020 graduates.
- g. Committee Member Prof. Jessica Frazier presented the report of the Bylaws and Review Committee.

There was a seconded motion from the Bylaws and Review Committee to amend the Bylaws as follows:

5.4 The conduct of the meeting will be guided by parliamentary procedures with rules stated in the latest edition of ~~Sturges Standard Code~~ The AIP Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure. The Dean my appoint a parliamentarian to serve at Faculty meetings (See University Manual Sections 4.40.14 and 4.45.10)

Discussion ensued. The rationale for the change in language is that the American Association of Parliamentarians (AIP) has updated their procedural manual in 2012. It was first authored by Alice Sturges in 1950 and renamed by the AIP with Sturges listed as a co-author. Since the motion was not published the required five days prior to voting, the motion is tabled and is scheduled for vote as old business at the next meeting of the CELS Faculty and Professional Staff.

- f. Prof. Janelle Couret provided a brief report of the activities of Diversity Committee.
 - g. 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 a discussion of a proposal by the Department of Landscape Architecture to rejoin CELS. The sense of the discussion was that LAR would be welcome to rejoin CELS, but it must be accompanied by a thoughtful reorganization of their priorities to provide best fit with the current CELS mission and priorities as a college.
9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pmam

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Rice, Secretary of the CELS Faculty

APPENDIX 1

