

MINUTES

CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting – December 16, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:10 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021 via Webex web meeting platform, with Dean Kirby presiding. Approximately 92 members of the CELS community were in attendance.
2. *The Minutes from the April 27, 2021 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were presented for approval and were approved without objection.*
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. Dean Kirby offered congratulations to all members of the CELS Faculty and Staff for the productivity and success of the Spring semester despite the difficulties posed by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The public health precautions put in place and general cooperation by all members of the community has made URI a relatively safe place to be. Recent news of the omicron-variant with greater contagiousness than previous variants is of concern, thus prompting continued vigilance and care during final exams and the new year.
 - b. Professors Howard Ginsberg, Larry Englander and Seth Macinko (phased) have announced their retirements.
 - c. Strategic planning for the university under the new presidency of Dr. Marc Parlange will begin in the Spring Semester. CELS Faculty and Staff are urged to participate in order that our voices are heard and professional aspirations are taken into consideration. It is clear that federally funded research will be a greater part of the strategic priorities than it has been in the last 30 years.
 - d. Dean Kirby wished all a joyous holiday season & urged all to take the opportunity to remain safe and engage in restful activities.
4. **Reports of Standing Committees:**
 - a. *Diversity Committee:* Prof. Amelia Moore provided a report of the activities of Diversity Committee (slides of her presentation are in Appendix 1). She introduced Prof. Jason Kolbe who will be leading a Diversity Recruitment Task Force to advise and cooperate in diversity hiring within CELS. Professor Dawn Cardace will serve as Chairperson of the Diversity Committee during the Spring semester.
 - b. *Curriculum Committee:* The Curriculum Committee report was given by Committee Chair Rebecca Brown. Highlights of her report is presented in Appendix 2. There will be a major change in how new courses will be proposed, handled and approved through the KUALI Curriculum Management System. The system will allow proposals to be trackable through the entire approval process and sign-offs will be fully electronic through Faculty Senate and posting by the Registrar. The system is expected to go live on-line on January 15.
 - c. *Research Committee:* Committee Chair Niall Howlett provided a brief report of the Research Committee. Highlights are presented in Appendix 3. The Office of Sponsored Projects has revised the proposal submissions guidelines to allow more time for institutional review prior to submission to the funding agency. A new pre-award administrative assistant for CELS is in the system with HR reviewing the job description.
 - d. *Space Committee:* Committee Chair Prof. Dawn Cardace provided a brief report on the activities of the committee. The committee webpage (<https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/space-committee/>) is updated with running minutes for all Committee meetings. A Google Form version of CELS Space Request Form is on-line (<https://forms.gle/1awg5uch5u5npVaz5>).

- e. *Cooperative Extension and Outreach Committee:* Committee Chair Kate Venturini provided the report of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Committee. See Appendix 4.
- f. *Commencement Committee:* Committee Chairperson Prof. Coleen Suckling provided a report on the activities of the Commencement Committee. Report is presented in Appendix 5.
- g. *Bylaws and Review Committee:* Committee Chair Katherine Petersson brought forth a seconded motion from the committee to amend the CELS Bylaws as follows:

Proposed Changes to Bylaws by adding following new section:

5.9 Each year the college shall solicit nominations for Excellence Awards in Teaching, Research, Extension and Outreach, Staff, and Service, to be presented at the CELS Faculty & Professional Staff meeting at the end of the academic year. Nominations shall be evaluated by a selection committee for each award composed of past award recipients, using selection criteria determined by the committee.

The amendment was passed unanimously without objection.

6. **Old Business:**

There was no old business.

7. **New Business:**

There was no new business.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm

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

APPENDIX 1 DIVERSITY COMMITTEE



Committee Membership 2021		
<u>Administration</u> Assoc. Dean Wilga Asst. Dean Fontes	<u>GEO</u> Dawn Cardace David Fastovsky	<u>Extension</u> Amanda Missimer Kate Venturini
<u>Staff</u> Judy Palmer	<u>MAE</u> Amelia Moore Melva Treviño-Peña	<u>Graduate</u> Elaine Shen *Asta Habtemichael
<u>BIQ</u> Jessica Adams Jannelle Couret Chris Thawley	<u>NRS</u> Graham Forrester Brian Gerber	<u>Undergraduate</u> *
<u>CMB</u> Jodi Camberg	<u>PL SCI</u> Bridget Ruemmele John Taylor	<u>Fall 2021 Chair</u> Amelia Moore
<u>PAVS</u> Mara Hoffman Austin Humphries	<u>ENRE</u> Todd Guilfoos	<u>Spring 2022 Chair</u> Dawn Cardace

Reflection, Accountability, Action

- Collect and periodically report accurate data
- Collaborate with existing initiatives at URI and CELS on critical social issues and recruitment and retention of minoritized faculty and faculty of color in STEM
- Engage departments in a unified effort to promote the academic success of minoritized undergraduates and to recruit and retain graduate students of color
- Enhance the CELS website and communications to ensure the recognition and visibility of all constituencies
- Strengthen the JEDI infrastructure in CELS (e.g. refining promotion and tenure expectations to include JEDI work).

Fall Activities and Actions

- Voices of Inclusion in Communities of Education and Science (VOICES) took a break from organizing college events this semester.
- Annette Bourbonniere spoke to us about Ableism in Academia
- Initial Safe Zone Training for CELS
- Elaine Shen completed the CELS Graduate Student Handbook
- Asta Habtemichael started a new Diversity and Inclusion Badge Program workshop: *Insider-Outsider: The Experiences of International Scholars of Color in US Higher Education*
- Finalization of the CELS DC Report and College Recommendations

CELS 2019-2021 Report

- Diversity at URI and in CELS (faculty, staff, students)
- Recruitment and Retention
- Multicultural Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
- Evaluating College Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice Work
- Funding Sources
- CELS Course Offerings
- CELS Publications, Commentary, Talks
- Professional Development
- Departmental Activities
- CELS Survey Results
- Outreach
- Defining Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion for CELS
- Recommendations for the College, Lab Groups, Teaching, and Research

Spring 2022

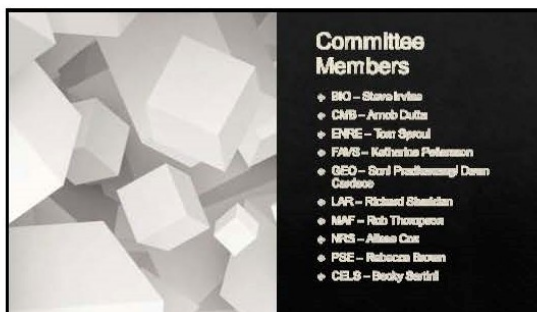
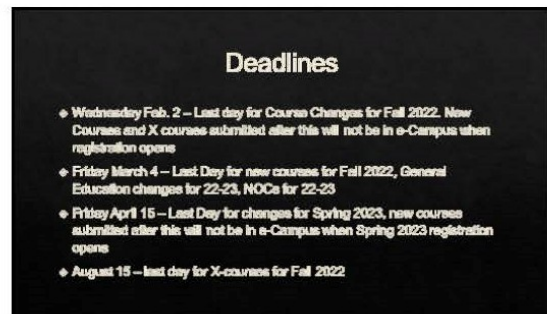
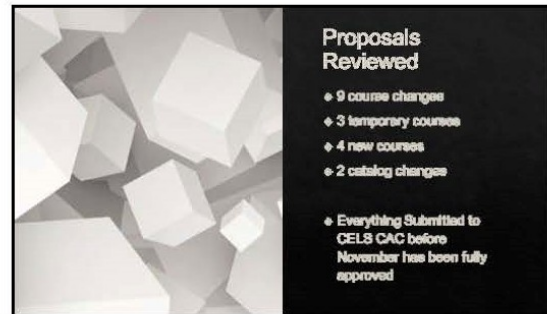
- Updating committee bylaws and procedures to reflect what we do
- CELS JEDI Film Series will continue in Spring 2022 with Kendall Moore's: *Can We Talk It: White Allyship*
- Mental Health First Aid Training, January 18th, Zoom: 8:00am- 2:00pm
- Safe Zone Advanced Training spring schedule pending
- Neuroatypical students and faculty in academia conversation
- SABER Seminar discussion on Structural Racism in STEM
- CELS Recruitment and Retention Task Force Recommendations
- CELS DC Report department level discussions and action strategies

Interested? Join Us!

- Email me ameliampore@uri.edu to take action

APPENDIX 2

CELS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT



APPENDIX 3

CELS RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

CELS Research Committee - Report Fall 2021

Members: David Bidwell (MAF), Thomas Boving (GEO), Rebecca Brown (PSE), Niall Howlett (CMB)(Chair), Jason Kolbe (BIO), Carlos Prada Montoya (BIO), Pengfei Liu (ENRE), Mark Stolt (NRS), Cheryl Wilga (BIO)(ex officio)

- Reminder that OSP has recently updated its pre-award proposal preparation and submission guidelines:
 - <https://web.uri.edu/research-admin/submit-a-proposal/to-prepare-and-submit-your-proposal/>
- Planning a CELS-specific proposal development workshop for early spring 2022
- New pre-award support position is moving forward*
- CELS faculty awards/experts database - survey early spring 2022
- Reminder for (new) faculty to use the committee as a resource; reach out if you need assistance with any aspect of proposal development
- Committee reports/meeting minutes available at: <https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/research-committee/>

APPENDIX 4

CELS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Cooperative Extension & Outreach Coordinating Committee

College of the Environment and Life Sciences
University of Rhode Island

December 16, 2021

Committee Members

Elected Faculty & Professional Staff

Elizabeth Herron	Department of Natural Resources Science (2022)
Rebecca Brown	Department of Plant Sciences & Entomology (2021)

CE Administration and Program Leaders

Sarah Amin	Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
Tolani Otagundoye	4-H Program
Lisa Townson	Dean's Office (ex officio)
Kate Venturini	Mallon Center (chairperson)

Extramural CE Cooperators

Deb Imondi	4-H Foundation (2021)
Quahna Mars	Narragansett Indian Tribe (2022)
TBD	(2023)

Best practices for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in URI Extension programs

Purpose:

- To ensure our programs consider, engage, support and reach all Rhode Islanders.

Accomplishments:

- Established a [demographic data collection process](#) to determine who we're serving and who we're missing
- Built a [social justice resource page](#) on the CoopExt portal for our stakeholders - and- an [internal JEDI-related resource page](#) for CoopExt faculty and staff as a starting point for internal conversations
- Acknowledge our land grant history (e.g. land grab) during presentations to our volunteers and the public

Program design, communications and marketing

Purpose:

- To share resources, increase visibility of Extension, and strengthen program effectiveness

Accomplishments:

- Developed the [Tools to Increase Engagement in Extension Programs resource portal](#) (uri.edu/coopext/staff-resources/)
- Developed a [program evaluation template](#)
- Created an [annual workplan](#) to guide our committee work
- Co-hosted six [Coffee with CoopExt](#) sessions to share best practices, resources and tools to increase public engagement in our programs
 - Next one is Monday, 12/20 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom!

APPENDIX 5
COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

CELS Commencement Committee update Dec. 2021

2021 Commencement Committee Faculty:

Coleen Suckling Committee Chair, Jodi Camberg, John Taylor & Deans Kim Anderson & Becky Sartini.

Committee updates:

- Jodi Camberg previous Chair and during the last CELS Faculty & Professional meeting was elected to staying the Committee as a member – thank you for your service and leadership and continued contributions.
- Thank you to Alison Roberts who was in our committee prior to this for the great contributions to the committee's work.

Commencement updates:

- May 2021 Commencement – despite rapidly changing covid requirements the flexible nature of the organizing committees and all those helping and attending meant that this event was a success. Held outdoors, Meade stadium: 505 graduates, 280 attended.
- Delayed Commencement ceremony for those who graduates during the peak of the covid restrictions in 2020. The event took place on Oct 1st 2021 in the Ryan Centre with 139 CELS students registered and having attended.
- We thank everyone who helped in making these events run smoothly in what we believe to be events that everyone enjoyed safely as a community.
- Upcoming Commencement dates – Graduate = May 21, 2022; Undergraduate = May 22, 2022. No further news yet on these ceremonies or their specific locations at this point. Hope that you will once again consider attending and supporting and celebrating our graduates at this event when communications reach you regarding this.