

MINUTES

CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting – April 27, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 via Webex web meeting platform, with Dean Kirby presiding. Approximately 132 members of the CELS community were in attendance.
2. *The Minutes from the September 2, 2020 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were presented for approval and were approved without objection.*
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. Dean Kirby stated that he was proud of all faculty & staff accomplishments over the 2020-21 academic year of the Covid-19 pandemic. He has been working with the pre-tenure faculty to assure they are on track given the difficulties of the times. He urged all to not be too hard on themselves and maintain good spirits.
 - b. June 1 is the 'reopening' target for Rhode Island per Governor McKee, however URI's reduced building and room capacities remain unchanged for the time being. CELS staff return to campus will be phased in given room capacities, and all are urged to be considerate and 'give people space.'
 - c. Dean Kirby gave the floor to the *ad hoc* committees selecting the CELS Annual Excellence Awardees. The 2021 CELS Awardees were: Prof. Jannelle Couret, CELS Teacher of the Year; Prof. Soni Pradhanang, CELS Researcher of the Year; Vanessa Venturini, CELS Extension Professional of the Year; and Aura Grandidge, CELS Staff Member of the Year.
4. **Elections:**
 - a. Faculty Secretary Rice thanked outgoing URI Senators Burroughs, Chandlee & Ruemmele, and welcomed in newly-elected Senators Emi Uchida, Brian Maynard and Lenore Martin who were recently elected to serve from 2021 to 2024.
 - b. Faculty Secretary Rice presented the slate of candidates for election for service on CELS Committees from 2021 to 2024 and opened up the floor for further nominations. There were no new nominees, and nominations were closed. ***The slate of unopposed nominees was approved by unanimous voice vote with no abstentions.***

Elected and reelected CELS Committee members are:

Curriculum Committee: Thomas Sproul (ENRE); Alissa Cox (NRS); Rebecca Brown (PSE)
Research Committee: Pengfei Liu (ENRE); David Bidwell (MAF)
Cooperative Extension & Outreach Committee: Rebecca Brown (PLE)
Space Committee: Dawn Cardace (GEO); Thomas Mather (PLE)
Commencement Committee: Jody Camberg (CMB)
Bylaws and Review Committee: Katherine Petersson (FAVS)
5. **Reports of Standing Committees:**
 - a. *Curriculum Committee:* The Curriculum Committee report was given by Committee Chair Rebecca Brown. Highlights of her report is presented in Appendix 1.
 - b. *Research Committee:* Committee Chair Niall Howlett provided a brief report of the Research Committee. Highlights are presented in Appendix 2. The primary concern of the committee over the

semester has been in gathering greater support for proposal and post-award grant management by researchers.

- c. *Cooperative Extension and Outreach Committee*: Committee Chair Kate Venturini provided the report of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Committee. Highlights included program pivots to support COVID-19 education efforts. See Appendix 3.
- 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 new Google Form version of CELS Space Request Form is on-line (<https://forms.gle/1awg5uch5u5npVaz5>) and the committee is monitoring it to make small improvements. A March 2020 survey allowed 'point persons' to be selected for all CELS shared spaces, and the committee looks forward to working together as research productivity recovers from COVID stresses.
- e. *Commencement Committee*: Committee Member Prof. Jodi Camberg provided a report on the activities of the Commencement Committee. Report is presented in Appendix 4.
- f. *Bylaws and Review Committee*: Committee Chair Katherine Petersson brought forth a seconded motion from the committee to amend the CELS Bylaws to readmit the Landscape Architecture Department back into CELS and return their degree programs to the college. Text of the amendments are in Appendix 5.
- g. *Diversity Committee*: Prof. Amelia Moore provided a report of the activities of Diversity Committee (slides of her presentation are in Appendix 6). The committee was very active during the academic year in response to widespread concern for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) issues across Campus.

*At 12:00pm There was a seconded motion to extend the Meeting by 15 Minutes (**Motion passed by voice vote**)*

*At the conclusion of the Diversity Committee Report, there was a seconded motion for the Faculty Secretary to alter the order of the reports from committees from meeting to meeting. (**Motion passed unanimously by voice vote**)*

6. **Old Business:**

There was no old business.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Dean Kirby announced that two faculty members were promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure: Holly Putnam and Simona Trandafir. Jason Kolbe was promoted to Full Professor, and Gongqin Sun & Marta Gomez-Chiarri were advanced to Full Professor III.
- b. CELS faculty retirees this year include Dennis Nixon, Edward Bozzi, Barbara Van Sciver, and Christopher Pargellis.
- c. CELS faculty passing away this past semester were: Murn Nippo, Paul Cohen, and Thomas Grigalunas.
- d. Professor Webb announced that the recipients of the 2021 NOAA Hollings Scholarships are: Rosalind Bailey, a marine biology major and theater minor from Barnet, Vermont; Emily Drappeau, a

marine biology and marine affairs major from Dresden, Maine; Sebastian Murray-Brown, a marine affairs and natural resource economics major from Gloucester, Massachusetts; and Elizabeth Taylor, an ocean engineering major and business minor from Newport, Rhode Island.

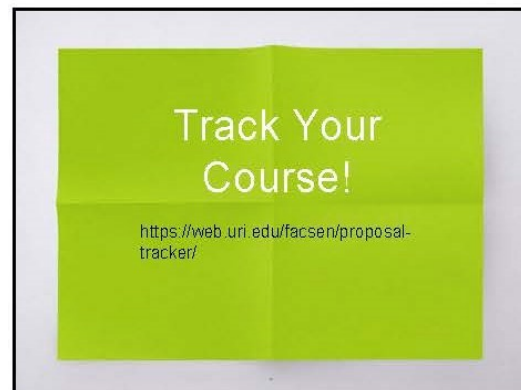
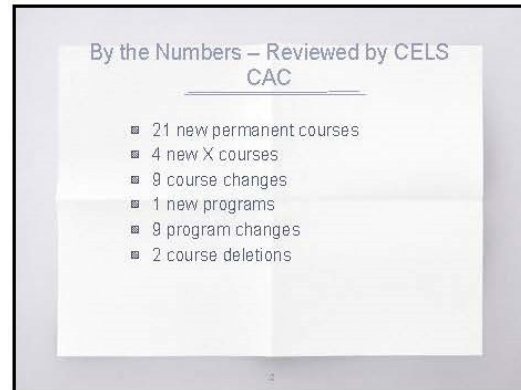
- e. Linda Forrester is the recipient of the Staff Excellence Award from the URI Foundation.
- f. *Professor Preisser introduced a motion, seconded by Professor Roberts to institute a CELS Excellence in Service Award to be awarded annually. Discussion ensued. (**Motion passed by unanimously by voice vote**). Since this action requires change of the CELS Bylaws, the Bylaws and Review Committee shall prepare proper bylaws amendments for consideration at the Fall CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting.*
- g. Associate Dean Sheely announced that she will be retiring from the University at the end of May. All in the college wished her well.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm

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

APPENDIX 1

CELS CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT



APPENDIX 2

CELS RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

CELS Research Committee - Report Spring 2021

Members: Thomas Boving (GEO), Marta Gomez-Chiarri (FAVS), Niall Howlett (CMB)(Chair), Jason Kolbe (BIO), Elizabeth Mendenhall (MAF), Carlos Prada Montoya (BIO), Tom Sproul (ENRE), Mark Stolt (NRS), Cheryl Wilga (BIO)(*ex officio*)

- Committee reports/meeting minutes available at:
<https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/research-committee/>
- Graduate training programs - general recommendations for those considering applying - white paper ready for circulation
- Increasing pre-award SRGA support for faculty*
- Reminder for (new) faculty to use the committee as a resource; reach out if you need assistance with any aspect of proposal development

11.2.1 Charge. The Research Committee shall have the responsibility **for advising and assisting the Dean and Associate Dean for Research** in planning and reviewing Agricultural Experiment Station and other research programs of the college, including all Research Centers and Institutes administered by CELS (See 1.6.4 of these bylaws), and **make recommendations to the Dean** on the annual allocation of AES facilities, personnel and resources, including the establishment of priority areas for requests for proposals and the establishment, oversight and dissolution of Administrative Cost Centers.

APPENDIX 3

CELS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



Cooperative Extension & Outreach Coordinating Committee

College of the Environment and Life Sciences
University of Rhode Island

April 27, 2021

Committee Members

Elected Faculty & Professional Staff

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

CE Administration and Program Leaders

Sasha Asala (EFNEP)	Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
Tahani Olayinka	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)
Deborah L. Shady	4-H Program
Kate Voshell	Dean's Office (ex officio)
	Milton Center (chairperson)

Extension/CE Consultants

Shannon Brasley	RI Nursery and Landscape Association (2020)
Dick Inouell	4H Foundation (2021)
Chelsea Miers	Managewell 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.
- **Accomplishments:**
 - Established a demographic data collection process for CoopExt programs to gain an understanding of who we serve, and who we don't
 - Curated a social justice resource page on the CoopExt portal to support our clients -and- JEDI-related resources for CoopExt faculty and staff as a starting point for internal conversations
 - Acknowledging our land grant history, both good and bad, during presentations to our volunteers and the public

Internal communications and marketing

- **Purpose:**
 - To share resources, increase visibility of Extension, and strengthen program effectiveness
- **Accomplishments:**
 - Developed a new clearinghouse for CoopExt faculty and staff – **Tools to Increase Engagement in Extension Programs** (uri.edu/coopext/staff-resources/)
 - Co-host monthly Coffee with CoopExt Communications sessions to share best practices, resources and tools to increase public engagement in our programs

On the horizon...

- Annual workplan
- Program evaluation SOP and survey templates
- Summary of CoopExt Programs: FY21-23

APPENDIX 4

CELS Commencement Committee update Spring 2021

2021 Commencement Committee Faculty - Jodi Camberg, Committee Chair, Alison Roberts, Coleen Suckling, John Taylor and Deans Becky Sartini and Kim Anderson

CELS Commencement will be held at Meade Stadium on SUNDAY, May 23, 2021 at 6 pm.

- Undergraduate degrees for CELS students finishing in Dec 2020, May and August 2021
- ~300 students have registered to attend the in-person ceremony
- Only graduates who have *preregistered* will be permitted access to in-person ceremonies at Meade Stadium.
- All participating graduates will dress in traditional regalia, have their names announced, cross the stage, and have professional photos taken.
- To maintain the health and safety of our community, in-person celebrations will be limited to graduates only, faculty and staff. The graduation ceremonies will be livestreamed for family and friends to view and attend **virtually**.
- Following restrictions mandated by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the URI COVID Task Force, only graduates who have preregistered, provided proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours prior to their ceremony, and completed the URI Daily COVID Self-Assessment will be permitted access to in-person ceremonies at Meade Stadium.
- We are looking for volunteers to help with student check-in and FACULTY members to participate in the day's events. Faculty from every department are needed to serve as Marshalls, help with student organizing, and be there to share the day with the students as they graduate. Help with check-in is needed from 5-6 pm.
- If you are willing to participate, please email me directly so that we can get you pre-registered to attend the ceremony at cambergj@uri.edu.

APPENDIX 5

BYLAWS AND REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

1.3 Departments of CELS. The College of the Environment and Life Sciences has the following departments (University Manual Section 3.21.17):

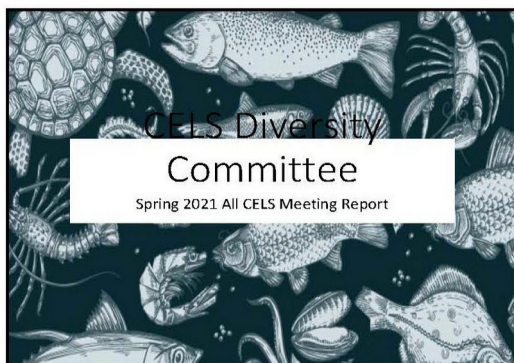
- 1.3.1 Biological Sciences
- 1.3.2 Cell and Molecular Biology
- 1.3.3 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
- 1.3.4 Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science
- 1.3.5 Geosciences
- 1.3.6 Landscape Architecture
- 1.3.67 Marine Affairs
- 1.3.78 Natural Resources Science
- 1.3.89 Plant Sciences and Entomology

1.4 Undergraduate Education – The undergraduate programs are administered by the Office of Student Affairs of CELS.

- 1.4.1 Bachelor of Arts Degree – A four-year undergraduate degree offered by the Departments of Biological Sciences and Marine Affairs in cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences under the auspices of the Basic Liberal Studies Program.
- 1.4.2 Bachelor of Landscape Architecture – A four-year undergraduate first professional degree offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture
- 1.4.23 Bachelor of Science Degree – A four-year undergraduate program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. The departments offering Bachelor of Science degree programs in the College include all departments of CELS.
- 1.4.34 Professionally Accredited Undergraduate Programs – Degree programs offered by CELS that are accredited by professional accrediting organizations are:
 - a) The Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
 - b) The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architects

APPENDIX 6

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE



Committee Membership 2021

Administration

Assoc. Dean
Wilga
Asst. Dean
Fontes

Staff

Chandu Dondeti

Judy Palmer

BIO

Jessica Adams

Jannelle Couret

CMB

Jodi Camberg

FAVS

Maria Hoffman

Austin

GEO

Dawn Cardace

David Fastovsky

MAE

Amelia Moore

Melva Treviño-Peña

NRS

Graham Forrester

Brian Gerber

PL SCI

Bridget Ruemmele

John Taylor

ENRE

Emi Uchida

Extension

Amanda

Missimer

Kate Venturini

Graduate

*Elaine Shen

Asta

Habtemichael

Undergraduate

*Raquel Ortiz

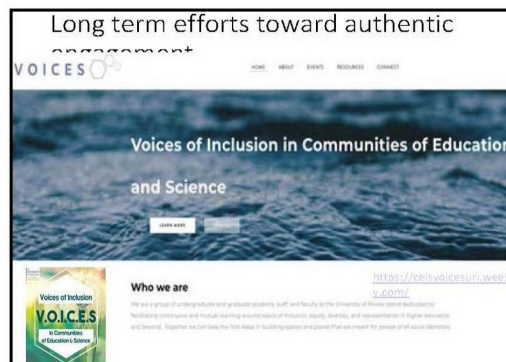
Co-Chairs

Jannelle Couret

Amelia Moore

Strategic Goals: 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 faculty 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 job performance expectations to include

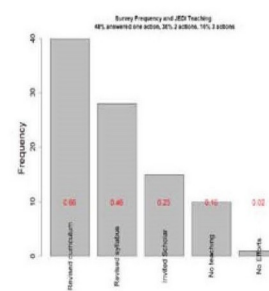


Responding with Resources

- Message in solidarity with our AAPI community
- Message in solidarity with LGBTQ+ Identities in CELS and at URI
- Messages in solidarity with BLM and the ongoing acts of police violence against Black and Brown Americans
- End of semester message to recommend inclusive pedagogy for students and faculty feeling COVID and social stress
- Upcoming CED DEI 365 Symposium: Learning from Vital Practitioners: Building Anti Racist and Anti Colonial Ocean and Coastal Science and Policy.

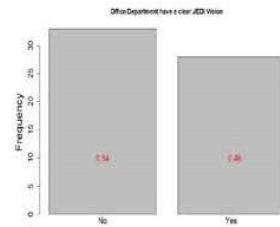
CELS 2020 SL

N= 61



CELS 2020 Survey

N= 61



CELS 2020 Survey

RESEARCH: In the past 5 years, what efforts have you made to incorporate social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion goals/strategies in your research? 9 responses

Respondents mentioned a variety of things from working directly with Indigenous tribes to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into research protocols (one person) to designing one study that examined the factors, including field research experience, that affect BIPOC recruitment in geoscience (one person). In terms of ongoing and consistent research, one respondent said that they incorporate equity in some of their work on participatory processes, and one person said that all of their current research is oriented around JEDI, involves collaboration with underrepresented communities, or involves work with other scholars of color. One person mentioned that they advocate for underrepresented students to join labs and another said that they

CELS 2020/2021 Report

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Programs and Activities in CELS
- To be compiled every 5 years
- First report to be finalized in 2021

Service to the Administration

- Appendix C: CELS Agenda for Advancing Diversity Through Antiracist and Anticolonial Practices
- Review of the Academic Affairs Agenda for Change for the Fall

Recent Awards

- Gender and Sexuality Center's Honorary Lavender Graduate Award to the entire CELS Diversity Committee (to be accepted by Jannelle Couret)
- CELS Seeds of Success Student Organization, Student Organization Excellence Award
- Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Award for graduate member, Elaine Shen
- Rainville Leadership Award for Outstanding Leadership, Naomi Pajarillo (CELS SOS president)
- CELS Teaching Excellence Award, Jannelle Couret

Pending

- Updating committee bylaws and procedures to reflect what we do
- Engaging in further definition of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for CELS
- CELS JEDI Film Series will continue in Fall 2021