

## MINUTES

### *CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting – May 4, 2022*

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. in CBLS 100 on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, initially presided by Associate Dean Sartini. In attendance were CELS Community Members: Addy, Adams, Anderson, Becker, Bidwell, Blackwood, Bourassa, D Brown, R Brown, Buxton, Camberg, Campbell, Card, Cardace, Carlson, Carnevala, Cary, Conover, Cox, Davies, Davis, Deming, Diamond, Diczenco, Duhaime, Fallini, Favreau, G Forrester, L Forrester, Gerber, Gill, Grandidge, Greene, Gregory, Guilfoos, Hamidzada, Hiwasaki, Hodgkinson, Horan, Howlett, Irvine, Karako, Karraker, Keane, Kirby, Kolbe, Laliberte, Lang, X Lin, Marchetti, McGreevy, Muhitch, Nelson, Osgood-Dean, Palmer, Paton, Parent, Peach-Lang, Pepper, Petersson, Plouffe, Prada, Prior, Puritz, Rice, J Richard, Riely, Roberts, Sartini, Saumweber, Savage, Schwartz, Sheridan, Silvia, Smallridge, Sproul, Still, Stolt, Suckling, Sun, Sweck, A Taylor, J Taylor, Thawley, Thornber, D Townson, L Townson, Trandafir, E Uchida, H Uchida, K Venturini, V Venturini, Webb, Wetherbee, B Zhang.
2. *The Meeting Agenda as presented was approved by unanimous consent.*
3. *The Minutes from the December 16, 2021 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting were presented for approval and were approved without objection.*
4. Interim Provost Beauvais was in attendance to discuss Dean Kirby's Faculty Senate-led review. She provided an overview of the results and answered questions about the process of the review, and entertained discussion about how the process might be improved.
5. Dean Kirby arrived to preside during the remaining portion of the meeting.
6. **Announcements:**
  - a. Dean Kirby provided a brief overview of CELS news and happenings as to enrollments and the pending FY2023 budget, and reminded the community that detailed information about CELS news can be found in the posted minutes of the Executive Council (<https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/executive-council/>)
  - b. All ten CELS faculty members applying for promotion and/or tenure, or advancement in rank were successful, including: Thomas Boving (GEO), Brian Gerber (CMB), Nancy Karraker (NRS), Corey Lang (ENRE), Thomas J. McGreevy (NRS), Sunshine Menezes (NRS), Katherine Petersson (FAVS), Becky Sartini (FAVS), Brian Savage (GEO), and John Taylor (PLE).
  - c. Professors Stephen Irvine (BIO), Larry Englander (PLE) and Seth Macinko (MAF) have announced their retirements.
  - d. University-wide Research and Scholarly Excellence awards have been awarded to Emily Diamond (MAF), Kevin Wong (Putnam Lab BIO), Scott McWilliams (NRS) and Sunshine Menezes (NRS).
  - e. Staff Career Pins & Certificates were presented to Colleen Blackwood (31 years); Debra Bourassa (22 years); Colleen Travis (22 years).
  - f. CELS 2022 ANNUAL Excellence Awards were announced:
    - ⇒ Teaching Excellence Award presented to Dr. Brian D. Gerber by 2021 Awardee Dr. Janelle Couret
    - ⇒ Research Excellence Award presented to Dr. Corey Lang by 2021 Awardee Dr. Jacqueline Webb
    - ⇒ Extension and Outreach Award presented to Kaylyn C. Keane by 2021 Awardee Vanessa Venturini

- ⇒ The Inaugural CELS Service Award presented to Dr. Michael A. Rice by 2021 Fritz Wenisch  
Faculty Senate Service Excellence Awardee Dr. Laura A. Meyerson
- ⇒ Professional Staff Excellence Award presented to Marianne Prior by 2021 Awardee Aura  
Grandidge.

## 7. Elections Report:

- a. Results of CELS Elections were summarized by Faculty Secretary Rice
  - 1) Thanks were given to outgoing senators Jason Kolbe (BIO) and Laura Meyerson (NRS)
  - 2) Newly elected senators serving for the 2022-2025 term are William Gordon (LAR), Graham Forrester (NRS), and David Bidwell (MAF).
  - 3) CELS faculty were encouraged to consider running for the senate to represent CELS. There were no new nominations for an open senate seat, so CELS will be entering the 2022-23 one short of its full complement of senators.
- b. The slate of candidates for CELS Committee seats was moved and seconded. Without discussion, the slate was approved without objection by voice vote. The CELS Committee members to serve a term from 2022 to 2025 are as follows:
  - 1) CELS Curriculum Committee: Melva Treviño-Peña (MAF); Arnob Dutta (CMB); Katherine Petersson (FAVS) Also: Bridget Ruemmele (PLE) to replace Rebecca Brown (PLE) for term ending 2024
  - 2) CELS Research Committee: Carlos Prada (BIO); Mark Stolt (NRS)
  - 3) CELS Cooperative Extension & Outreach Committee: Elizabeth Herron (NRS)
  - 4) CELS Space Committee: Corey Lang (ENRE); Brian Gerber (NRS); Hollie Putnam (BIO)
  - 5) CELS Commencement Committee: Coleen Suckling (FAVS)
  - 6) CELS Bylaws and Review Committee: Brian Maynard (PLE)
  - 7) CELS Faculty Secretary: Michael A. Rice (FAVS)

## 8. Reports of Standing Committees:

- a. *Diversity Committee*: Prof. Dawn Cardace provided a report of the activities of Diversity Committee. A major effort in the past semester has been through the task force appointed to improve recruitment strategies and retention practices for under represented faculty and graduate students. Prof. Jason Kolbe who is leading the CELS Diversity Recruitment Task Force. Discussion focused on problem of not being able to offer truly competitive salaries and means to increase greater social interaction in a post-pandemic world.
- b. *Curriculum Committee*: The Curriculum Committee report was given by Committee Chair Rebecca Brown. The KUALI Curriculum Management System is now operational. The system allows proposals to be trackable through the entire approval process, and sign-offs will be fully electronic through Faculty Senate and posting by the Registrar. Over the last academic year, there were 10 new courses, 6 temporary courses, 14 online versions of existing courses, 24 course changes and 5 program changes processed by the committee. Prof. Soni Pradhanang was elected by the committee to serve as chairperson beginning with the 2022-23 Academic year. Chairperson Brown thanked all members of the committee for their service during the past academic year.
- c. *Research Committee*: Committee Chair Niall Howlett provided a brief report of the Research Committee. In February 2022, the committee produced a report, *CELS Research Committee Report: Recommendations to Increase Research Capacity and Productivity*, that was presented to Dean Kirby and President Parlange. The previously announced new hire of a pre-award support staff member has been advertised and interviews begin in the week of May 8. There is a new CELS Proposal

Resubmission Support Funding Initiative to be launched soon. The aim is to provide 1 year of research bridge funding to promote proposal resubmissions. Faculty (especially new faculty) are encouraged to use the CELS Research Committee as a resource and to communicate with the committee with any challenges that are encountered. The CELS Research Committee maintains its reports and meeting minutes online at: <https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/research-committee/>

- 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 Coordinating Committee*: Committee Chair Kate Venturini provided the report of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee. The central effort of the CEOCC this past semester has been in the area of promoting Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) in all URI Extension programming to ensure consideration, engagement, support and reach to all Rhode Islanders. Associate Dean Townson is preparing for a scheduled Civil Rights review by USDA-NIFA to be held in February of 2023. There will be a brainstorming session at the annual all-Cooperative Extension Summit to share programming ideas and best practices and to provide a venue for JEDI discussions. Quanha Mars of the Narragansett Tribe is serving as an Extramural Cooperator on CEOC, and other diverse members are being sought to round out CEOCC the extramural members. Meeting minutes and reports are posted on the CEOCC website here: <https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/ceoc-committee/>
- f. *Commencement Committee*: Committee Chairperson Prof. Coleen Suckling provided a report on the activities of the Commencement Committee. The CELS Commencement will be held at 6pm at on Friday May 20 in the Ryan Center, with the main ceremony being held on the Quad (<https://web.uri.edu/commencement/>). Any CELS-specific updates from the committee will be posted on the CELS Commencement Committee website here: <https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/commencement-committee/>. The Commencement Committee urges faculty to participate and potentially serve as faculty marshals.
- g. *Bylaws and Review Committee*: Committee Chair Katherine Petersson brought forth a seconded motion from the committee to amend the CELS Bylaws to revise the membership of the Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee as follows:

Old language for deletion:

~~11.3.2 Membership. The Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee shall be composed of two (2) elected faculty or senior staff members actively engaged in Cooperative Extension from different departments, three extramural cooperators, the Cooperative Extension program leaders and the Associate Dean for Outreach who shall serve in an, ex-officio capacity. The extramural members of the committee shall be appointed by the Dean for staggered three-year terms. Faculty member terms will be consistent with the language for the rest of CELS committees per Section 9 of these bylaws.~~

New language for insertion:

11.3.2 Membership. The Cooperative Extension and Outreach Coordinating Committee shall be composed of two (2) elected faculty or senior staff members actively engaged in Cooperative Extension from different departments, five extramural cooperators, the Cooperative Extension program leaders and the Associate Dean for Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Programs who shall serve in an ex-officio capacity. The full committee (including extramural cooperators) will meet at least two times per year with an agenda solely focused on programmatic priorities.

The internal (staff and faculty) members will meet at least two additional times per year to discuss recommendations that are internally focused (e.g. policies, facilities allocation, personnel, etc.). The extramural members of the committee shall be appointed by the Dean for staggered three-year terms. Faculty and staff member terms will be consistent with the language for the rest of CELS committees per Section 9 of these bylaws.

*The amendment was passed unanimously by voice vote without objection, and one abstention.*

6. **Old Business:**  
There was no old business.
7. **New Business:**  
There was no new business.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:35m

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