

**AGENDA**  
**CELS FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEETING**

Wednesday April 29, 2020  
Webex Virtual Meeting 2:00pm

- 1) Call to Order (Dean John Kirby)
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2019 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting  
- text available at: <https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/files/CELS-Minutes-2019-12-11-draft-1.pdf>
- 3) Announcements: (Dean Kirby)
  - a) Report by Dean Kirby
- 4) Elections (CELS Faculty Secretary Prof. Michael Rice)
  - a) Results of Electronic Election of CELS Senators to URI Faculty Senate
    - 1) Thanks to outgoing Senators Lenore Martin (CMB) and Thomas Sproul (ENRE)
    - 2) Congratulations to new Senators to serve 2020-2023, Evan Preisser (BIO), Michael Rice (FAVS) and Ying Zhang (CMB).
  - b) Announcement of Electronic Election for CELS Committee & Graduate Council Seats
- 5) Reports of the Standing Committees
  - a) Curriculum Committee (Prof. Rebecca Brown)
  - b) Research Committee (Prof. Niall Howlett)
  - c) Extension and Outreach Committee (Extension Specialist Kate Venturini)
  - d) Space Committee (Prof. Dawn Cardace)
  - e) Commencement Committee (Prof. Simona Trandafir)
  - f) Bylaws Committee (Prof. Jessica Frazier)
  - g) Diversity Committee (Prof. Nelle Couret)
- 6) Old Business
- 7) New Business
  - a) Proposal by the Department of Landscape Architecture to rejoin CELS – *for discussion and possible vote at Fall CELS Faculty & Professional Staff meeting* (See Appendix Documents)
- 8) Adjournment

LAR MTG. with Dean Kirby (3/31/20)

---

**Attending: Will Green, LAR and J. Kirby**

***The following items were discussed:***

WG. Presented items that the LAR Department considered important as it considers the future for LAR. A few items had been discussed and agreed upon at an earlier meeting. In general, the intent is for LAR to develop a graduate program, increase numbers in a variety of ways, engage in research and outreach and work with other faculty, departments and international partners while teaching, engaging in scholarship and scholarly production, and providing service to the state and region. The department will make a number of strategic moves to achieve its goals. The proposed programs and proposals that are described below are built on the understanding that the accredited will be maintained.

***Graduate Programs, student numbers and collaborations***

**Develop an ABM(s) – in the department of landscape architecture**

**ABM/MLA** - This has been discussed for a few years and it gives the department a master's degree that will appeal to some of the LAR students who will remain an extra year to complete the degree and a variation of this can be a stand-alone MLA for professionals. It will be developed through the use of the BLA, and existing classes (URI). Two additional graduate studios are viewed as requirements.

**ABM/MESM** - An option for LAR undergrads desiring a master's and students with design backgrounds. Both degrees can increase graduate student numbers. Students will be able to choose from all of the MESM Tracks, including: Remote Sensing & Spatial Analysis, Environmental Planning and Design (EPD), Environmental Policy and Management, Sustainable Systems and Wetland, Watershed, and Ecosystem Science. Others may be selected from.

About the ABM, Brenton DeBoef is supportive stating that an ABM has been approved and he believes LAR will not be required to have a master's first. Art Gold was supportive and likes having more students in MESM.

**Update the Environmental Planning and Design Track in MESM.** I mentioned our willingness to update and administer the EPD track in order to attract more students. When I met with Art, we did not discuss bringing it into LAR, but it is a conversation that needs to be held. Art is supportive of having LAR update the EPD, strengthen the CPL certificate, and join the college, but he suggested that there were some challenges that needed to be addressed. I will need to speak with Brett Still.

**Professional MLA** - We spoke about an unaccredited Master's degree that would make use of existing graduate certificates and other classes including two new graduate studios. Projects could focus on coastal, resilience and sustainability, and target design professionals in RI, CT and MA and could lead to new international partnerships.

**A graduate degree and PhD's will lead to increased research and publications** focused on critical coastal, environmental, cultural, health and sustainability issues, but to do this effectively LAR needs new faculty to assist. JK indicated that that could not happen now. I think it is critical in creating new vision.

***Needs***

- Develop a short statement indicating that LAR is looking to return to cels. It will stress opportunities that can strengthen CELS. Needs to be in John's hands by Wednesday.
- Place statement on agenda for final college (CELS) faculty meeting
- Send memo to Jen Riley (A&S) indicating the content of our discussion and desire to move forward quickly
- See where we stand before preparing a Notice of Change Form.



## URI LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape Architecture is a profession whose practitioners apply artistic and scientific principles to the research, planning, design and management of natural and built environments. Professional Landscape Architects undertake ecological, cultural, and contextual landscape projects both nationally and internationally. Practitioners collaborate with other design professionals, scientists, humanists, artists, and communities to develop attractive, functional and resilient solutions to challenging environmental problems. URI's Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) degree program is accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) and our graduates are hired in firms throughout New England and throughout the United States.

### ***Mission of URI Landscape Architecture***

The mission of the URI Landscape Architecture Department (LAR) is to provide an academic environment in which students excel while learning about the theory and practice of the profession of landscape architecture. This is accomplished through a structured program that fosters a high level of creative and rigorous scholarly activity. Through design, planning and technical classes, students explore the roles of nature, culture, and community in shaping the human, built and natural environments. Our intent is to engage students and enrich their knowledge and understanding of ethical principles, ecological values and aesthetics in a rapidly changing world. In four years, our students become proficient in design and problem solving, digital technology and communication, and they develop a global awareness so that they can pursue exciting careers in the profession. Graduates of the program may become design practitioners or planners, or they may pursue careers in the construction and green industries. They also attend graduate schools where they receive advanced degrees in landscape architecture and related fields.

### ***Curriculum***

Our four-year Landscape Architecture curriculum at URI leads to the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree (BLA) and prepares undergraduates for careers in the public and private sectors. The curriculum consists of courses in design, construction documentation, site engineering, graphic communication, plant materials, surveying, and various computer applications. Courses in art, community planning, and natural sciences make up the supporting electives, while general education classes in communications, foreign language and culture, humanities, and social sciences provide our students with a full range of academic experiences. The LAR program also provides students with opportunities to gain real-world experiences through independent study projects, internships, and service-learning studios in which students assist state agencies, municipalities and local communities in addressing planning and design challenges associated with capstone classes.

### ***A Regulated Profession***

Practitioners engage in the design and planning of a wide range of projects. They work on transportation and infrastructure, projects, coastal and resilient developments, commercial, institutional landscapes and community designs. Their skills allow them to undertake ecological, cultural, and site improvement projects for sites located around the state and its cities. Landscape architects lead teams of designers and participate as team members working on challenging projects. The profession is visible with many firms working to develop sustainable, resilient and aesthetically pleasing solutions to some of our most pressing challenges. As Landscape Architecture is a regulated profession in all 50 states, one needs a degree from an accredited program, to have passed the licensing exam (LARE), and to have satisfied the professional experience requirement as established by each state, in order to practice. The registration requirement indicates one's competency and it ensures that the practitioner will work to protect the health, safety and welfare of a client, community or other region in which work is being carried out.

 The University of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity employer committed to community, equity, and diversity and to the principles of affirmative action.

**The Department** - URI is one of four schools in New England offering an accredited bachelor's degree in landscape architecture (BLA). Its faculty include three landscape architects (one with a PhD) and two community planners (PhDs). In addition, per-course instructors teach required classes. These practicing professionals add value to the students' experience and have provided a means for increasing the department's faculty diversity. The department enrolls between 65 – 75 students annually, with studio class enrollments limited to a maximum of twenty. The student body is comprised largely of students from New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania who seek to complete the professional degree in four years. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the profession will grow 4% annually through 2028. Graduates with a BLA find jobs in small to medium sized design firms, multi-disciplinary practices, community planning offices, design-build companies, construction businesses and some attend graduate schools.

**Students** – According to figures released by the Office of Institutional Research, the LAR program averaged 17 graduates per year over the last five years. Despite heavy loads, the design students still find time to participate in community service. In recent years, juniors and seniors installed and occupied mini parks in Providence and at URI as part of national Park(ing) Days. Students also attend the annual student conference in increasing numbers, unfortunately, this year's group was forced to cancel due to the coronavirus outbreak. Students have helped organize field trips to NYC, Boston, and Philadelphia, and have helped at open houses and Welcome Days. This year graduating seniors were extraordinarily active with one student serving as president of the Student Senate, another serving on fraternity leadership committees while a third was nominated for a national scholarship for design and leadership both of which he excels in. Student and class projects received 4-RIASLA awards this year and have received RIASLA and RIAPA awards over most of the last 5 years. Finally, five students have been selected as national Olmsted Scholars, which are outstanding accomplishments.

**Graduate Education and Landscape Architecture** – In the fall of 2014 the department of Landscape Architect planned a new graduate track "Environmental Planning and Design" in the Master of Environmental Science and Management (MESM) program. This program permits graduate students to take classes in planning and landscape architecture while focusing on developing new knowledge and skills that leads to careers in environmental planning. There is also a graduate Certificate in Planning developed and administered by LAR that provides professional practitioners the opportunity to enhance their credentials in planning and related fields. Finally, LAR faculty are looking forward to developing an accelerated master's Program (ABM) during the next year.

**Service** – Through upper-level design studios, faculty have been collaborating with state agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations to address current issues by providing design and planning services. Our client list is extensive and includes governors Almond and Chaffee, Rhode Island Departments of State, Administration, and Environmental Management, and local cities and towns including Charlestown, Exeter, Narragansett, and Newport as well as North Kingstown, East Providence and Providence, Westerly and others. Studios have also worked with the RI CRMC and Sea Grant. Faculty are also active in national organizations such as the American Society of Landscape Architects, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture and American Planning Association.

**The URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series** – Since 1993, our public lecture series has brought leading experts from around the world to the Kingston Campus to inspire countless students, faculty, alumni and friends. Distinguished speakers have come from firms and institutions located throughout New England, the mid-Atlantic region, and from as far as Washington State, Oregon, and California, as well as, from Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa. Our lecture series is recognized for the quality of its speakers and topics which often focus on sustainability, resilience and urbanism. The 2018 – 2019 series featured 9 leading women practitioners from around the country.

***Interdisciplinary Activities*** – Landscape architecture has always been a collaborative discipline where architects and landscape architects, planners and engineers, natural scientists and social scientists have worked on projects together. As the profession has grown, the need for interdisciplinary teams to address the major challenges associated with climate change, urban growth, and coastal resilience has become necessary, and landscape architecture is a discipline that is already involved in many of these projects. At URI, LAR faculty are engaging with artists, engineers, scientists, and social scientists, not only collaboratively and individually, but also with their studios. Faculty have hosted exhibits such as “Living on The Edge”, a photographic print show with the Art Department (2019), and worked with studios on memorials for 9/11, domestic abuse, premature deaths of young adults, and the Holocaust. They have participated in interdisciplinary studios with ENRE, Ocean Engineering and MAF, and co-taught classes with faculty from Marine Affairs. A new cross-listed GEN ED class will be co-taught for the first time in 2021. It is a joint offering between Landscape Architecture and ART. Faculty in LAR are very interested in research collaborations with the scholars in CELS. Past published research in LAR includes planning of transportation, international town development, and green infrastructure, as well as holistic assessment for coastal adaptation strategies, innovative pedagogical models for teaching coastal adaptable design across disciplines and service-learning strategies in design.

***Why CELS?*** – Climate change, environmental despoliation and increasing urbanization are critical issues that we face as a society, and as with recent efforts to address sea level rise, interdisciplinary approaches to planning and design are called for. The College of the Environment and Life Sciences has important departments and faculty, some of whom are already involved with projects and research aimed at addressing some of these complex issues. Landscape architecture with design planning and visualization capabilities, can be a valuable addition to the college. Thus, are requesting to move into a college, with which we are familiar and share many of the same interests and concerns. Together, we can partner on research proposals, provide design services to local cities and towns, instruct students at URI and abroad while preparing students for exciting careers addressing the key issues of our time. We are confident that by leading interdisciplinary and collaborative studios for skilled undergraduate and graduate students, offering an accelerated graduate degree program (ABM) and improved EPD track, and providing GIS, CAD and visualization technology and design skills, that LAR will be able to help the college achieve its goals while prospering as a department.

William Green, ASLA  
Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture