

Minutes of the October 4, 2019 Meeting of the CELS Advisory Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences Advisory Council was held at 9:30am at the CBL 435 conference room. Kenneth Abrams; William Bigelow, Blount Fine Foods; Corey Briggs, Colden Corp; Robert Carpetis (guest), Amgen Corp; Fran Ingersoll; Dr. Kevin Killeen, Matrivax; Fraser Lang, Metcalf Institute; Rand LeBouvier, General Dynamics Corp; Sharon McGuire, Amgen, Perry Raso, Matunuck Oyster Farm; Norman Tashash, Genzyme; Bruce Zetter; Skip Wilson, CELS/URI Foundation; Dr. Becky Sartini, URI CELS; Dr. Carol Thornber, URI CELS; Dr. Deborah Sheely, URI CELS; Dr. John Taylor, URI CELS-PLE; Dr. Michael Rice, URI CELS Faculty Secretary; Dr. John Kirby, URI CELS Dean presided.

URI Presentations and Discussion:

Prof. Taylor

Professor John Taylor provided an overview of his research on sustainable urban agriculture as a means to reach the New England Governors' Conference goal of reaching 50% food sufficiency in New England by 2060 (the 50 by 60 Program). Dr. Taylor spoke of possibilities for using urban, suburban and periurban farm production as building blocks in the effort, thereby protecting the natural landscapes, using a sustainable, social-ecosystem model.

Associate Dean Sheely

Associate Dean Sheely provided an outline of current Cooperative Extension programming (See: <https://web.uri.edu/coopext/>) and noted that there is a nationwide effort among Cooperative Extension programs to work with rural communities on the growing problem of substance abuse.

Associate Dean Thornber

Associate Dean Thornber provided a brief overview of faculty research going on in CELS (see: <https://web.uri.edu/cels/research/>). She noted that there are 9 new faculty members in the college this year with about 109 total. There are notable new cooperative research efforts in cooperation with the Harrington School of Education and the Thomas Ryan Neuroscience Institute.

Associate Dean Sartini

Associate Dean Sartini noted several efforts to improve learning opportunities and student retention and graduation rates in the college. Highest priority is a targeted funding of an expansion of experiential learning activities and online program development to reach more students who are increasingly becoming more 'plugged-in' online.

Dean John Kirby

Following Associate Dean Sartini, Dean Kirby interjected that many Land Grant universities are facing shrinking enrollments, such as South Dakota State University with an 8.4% reduction in student population. URI is in better shape with some 23,000 applications being received, with only 3,200 accepted which is boosting the overall

quality of students being accepted. IRI is now seen as a good educational value to prospective students. Nevertheless, affordability to students and their families is a growing issue. Demographics of graduate education is changing. There is growth in numbers of international graduate students in the college and the college is growing grad programs by expanding non-thesis professional masters degrees such as MESM & the MMA programs. (See: <https://web.uri.edu/cels/academics/>)

URI Foundation Capital Campaign Presentation and Discussion:

Skip Wilson

Skip outlined the aims and goals of the current URI Foundation Capital Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$250 million and to establish "a culture of philanthropy" here at URI. The campaign to date has raised \$136 million with \$39 million raised by CELS. The biggest contribution to date was from Thomas and Kathy Ryan with a \$35 million donation and that we will be launching the public phase of the campaign in April 2020. Key CELS priorities are funds for experiential learning activities. Secondary CELS priorities are: A faculty Chair in Infectious Diseases; A Faculty Chair in Water Quality; Supporting the Program in Coral Reef Ecology; Support for Estuarine and Coastal Research and Education; and building the Metcalf Institute endowment.

Discussion ensued about how to better engage younger alumni in the process. It was suggested that each member of the Advisory Council make a personal approach to alums they know as having somebody they know speaking on behalf of CELS giving, makes it personal. It was suggested by the Council that Skip Wilson provide each member with an outline of their own past giving on a periodic basis so that they know how much they had given and when. Skip agreed to this request.

Discussion of CELS Advisory Council Constitution and the Role of the Council:

Dean Kirby

Within the framework of the CELS Bylaws Chapter 13 'Advisory Committees' (<https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/cels-bylaws/#13>) the CELS Advisory Council is considering the establishment of a formal constitution (See: Advisory Council webpage here: <https://web.uri.edu/celsgov/cels-deans-advisory-council/>). Council members were previously provided copies of the constitutions and/or bylaws of other colleges at URI. Discussion that ensued concluded that the Constitution of the URI College of Business provides the best detail from which to form a CELS Advisory Council Constitution. A subcommittee was formed with a charge of writing a first draft of a constitution for discussion and consideration of the full Council at a subsequent meeting. The Constitution subcommittee consists of Kenneth Abrams, Fran Ingersoll, Kevin Killeen, Rand LeBouvier, and Norman Tashash

Adjournment: *The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm followed by a buffet lunch.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary