

College of the Environment and Life Sciences All Faculty Meeting & Awards Ceremony Minutes

A regular meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences faculty was held on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 from 3:30-5:30 PM in the Rhode Island Room of the University Club.

Faculty in Attendance

Paul Cohen, Tracey Dalton, Larry Englander, Catherine English, Nancy Fey-Yensan, Graham Forrester, Leonard Gerber, Howard Ginsberg, Marian Goldsmith, Frank Golet, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, William Gordon, Linda Green, Jacqueline Webb, Cheryl Wilga, Becky Sartini, Steven Alm, Christopher Anderson, James Anderson, Farhad Atash, David Bengtson, Jon Boothroyd, Tom Boving, Rebecca Brown, J. Allan Cain, Richard Casagrande, Kurt Schnier, Linda Sebelia, Richard Sheridan, Angelo Simeoni, Stephen Swallow, Robert Thompson, Carol Thornber, Emi Uchida, Hiro Uchida, Daniel Murray, David Nelson, Joanna Norris, James Opaluch, Katherine Petersson, Evan Preisser, Michael Rice, Bridget Ruemmele, Patty Harrington, Frank Heppner, Thomas Husband, Steven Irvine, Bethany Jenkins, Larry Juda, Keith Killingbeck, Richard Koske, David Laux, Roger LeBrun, George Loomis, Anthony Mallilo, Bruce Marti, Thomas Mather, Kathleen Melanson, Fred Meyerson, Laura Meyerson, Nathaniel Mitkowski.

Administration/Staff in Attendance

Catherine Curtin-Miller, Jane Vieira, Elissia Wahl, Tara Watson, Debra Bourassa, Kimberly Anderson, Colleen Blackwood, Glenn Schroder, Jeff Seemann, Dennis Nixon, Richard C. Rhodes, Michael Milkman, Heather Faubert, Lisa Tewksbury, Elizabeth Herron, Lorraine Joubert, Alyson McCann.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM.

Dean Seemann opened the meeting by having a few departments note a few recent distinctions:

The Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE) was ranked the fourth most productive research department in the U.S. in its discipline by the 2005 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index.

Ms. Rachel Gately, an undergraduate in the Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science was the winner of a national Udall Scholarship for the 2007-2008 academic year. This is the third year in a row that a College of the Environment and Life Sciences student has received this prestigious award.

Professor of Natural Resource Sciences, Frank Golet reported that NRS graduate student Stephanie Koch was awarded an NSF graduate fellowship. A team of undergraduate NRS students came in first place at the 2007 Wildlife Conclave.

Dean Seemann pointed out to faculty the recently produced banners to support the college's marketing efforts. These banners have already been used at the CELS Welcome Day event and the CBLS groundbreaking ceremony. Eventually, each department will have its own banner.

I. CELS Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards

Winners of the CELS Excellence Awards receive a plaque commemorating their award, a \$200 check as well as their name on the wall of the Dean's Conference Room. It has become college tradition that the winners from last Spring's award ceremony present the awards to this year's winners:

Patty Harrington presented the CELS Staff Excellence Award this year to Carl Sawyer.
Tom Mather and Nate Miller presented the Outreach Excellence Award to Elizabeth Herron.
Graham Forrester presented the Research Excellence Award to Dr. Mark Stolt.
Frank Golet presented the Teaching Excellence Award to Dr. Kurt Schnier.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

II. Approval of Fall 2006 CELS All Faculty Meeting Minutes (*Dennis Nixon*)

Paul Cohen, CMB, motioned to approve; Marta Gomez-Chiarri, FAVS, seconded the motion.

III. Curriculum Committee Report (*David Laux*)

Professor David Laux, CMB and Chair of the CELS Curriculum Committee, reviewed the curricular activity as attached at the end of the minutes.

IV. Election of Faculty Senators (*D. Nixon*)

Michael Rice, FAVS and Chair of the Faculty Senate, motioned to approve the proposed list of new faculty senators, Cathy English, NFS, seconded. The list of newly appointed faculty senators is attached at the end of the minutes.

V. Dean's Update (*Jeff Seemann, Rick Rhodes, Dennis Nixon*)

Dean Jeff Seemann presented updates as follows:

- Dean Seemann informed the faculty that Provost M. Provost Swan announced this morning that as of Dec. 31st, 2007 she will be stepping down as Provost and will be rejoining the faculty.
- Dean Seemann announced that the state allocation to the college will be arriving on Monday. We are expecting allocation to the university to remain flat. President Carothers is confident that he will be able to restore \$3M to the university budget. With a flat budget, searches currently underway will go forward and current position freezes will most likely remain.
- Dean Seemann reminded faculty that the RI EPSCoR/ STAC Collaborative Research Conference scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2007 at the RI Convention Center. He encouraged all to attend this free event.

Associate Dean Dennis Nixon presented updates as follows:

- Assoc. Dean Nixon introduced Tara Watson, Coordinator of the Coastal Fellows Program.
- Assoc. Dean Nixon announced the retirement of Frank Heppner, BIO.
- Assoc. Dean Nixon sits on the URI's seat management committee that recently reported that the university has 200 less paid deposits than last year; however at the college level, CELS numbers are ahead of our target this year.

Associate Dean Richard C. Rhodes III presented updates as follows:

- Assoc. Dean Rhodes thanked everyone for their participation in the CBLS Groundbreaking Ceremony. The event was a great success and we have received much positive feedback.
- Assoc. Dean Rhodes reported that the orange marks faculty and staff are noticing around the building site are actually utility markings and do not actually denote the perimeter of the CBLS and Pharmacy buildings.
- 1300 cubic yards of material, including useful loam and top soil will be taken from the building site will be used to refill areas on campus. The building's foundation will be built in the beginning of May. Structural shell is scheduled to be completed in August and the topping off is slated for November. It is tradition to make a really big deal of the topping off- everyone present signs the last bit of steel before it is hoisted and welded into place. Assoc. Dean Rhodes announced that he will be hosting a party for the occasion.
- Who is going to go into the building? Assoc. Dean Rhodes will appoint an Ad-Hoc Space Advisory Committee, made up of faculty, staff and graduate students, to provide advice on how to colonize the CBLS building, Woodward, Ranger, and Morrill Halls. The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee will be vetted through the college's decision making body- the CELS Executive Council and subsequently through the college. Please drop Assoc. Dean Rhodes a note at rcr3@uri.edu if you are interested in participating.
- Anyone interested can monitor the progress of the building via the CBLS website (www.uri.edu/cbls).
- Assoc. Dean Rhodes thanked all those who submitted proposals to the CELS CARES/ RI AES FY 2008 Hatch RFP. Proposals went through an external review process and an internal review by a panel of Program Leaders. Of 60 responses to the RFP, ten were selected for funding.
- Tuesday, April 11th, 2007 the college held its first Outreach Summit that aimed to guide the college's strategic plans for outreach efforts. The event was a huge success and recommendation made by participants at the meeting will be used to guide strategic investments in the future.

VI. Open Forum

- Dave Bengtson and Marta Gomez-Chiarri, FAVS, proposed instituting a CELS Mentoring Excellence Award in addition to the four awards we already hand out. This topic will be included on the agenda for the next CELS Executive Council meeting.

The next CELS All Faculty Meeting will take place in the Fall of 2007.

With no new business and no additional agenda items, David Nelson (CMB) motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jay Sperry (CMB).

The CELS All faculty Meeting concluded at 4:43 PM.

Cc: Provost M. Beverly Swan

CELS Curriculum Committee Report
CELS College Meeting
April 11, 2007

Members. Chair David Laux, CMB; Len Gerber (Sp07), NFS; Cathy English (F06), NFS; Jose Amador, NRS; John Gates, ENRE; Robert Thompson, MAF; Keith Killingbeck BIO.; David Fastovsky, GEO; Anthony Mallilo, FAVS; Richard Sheridan, LAR; Larry Englander, PLS; Dennis Nixon, CELS Admin (ex officio).

The following were approved by the CELS Curriculum Committee and forwarded to the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee and /or the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee.

New Courses:

AFS 104 Introductory Aquaculture Laboratory 1 credit

NRS/MAF 527X Marine Protected Areas: an interdisciplinary approach 3 credits

Deletions:

Terminate non-thesis M.S. degree option in Biological Sciences

Other Changes:

- BIO 551 Seminar in Aquatic Botany. Cross-list and change to BIO/NRS 551 Seminar in Marine Ecology.
- EVS 614 White Papers in Integrated Coastal Science. Change number of credits from 6 credits to 4-6 credits.
- EVS 618 Internship in Coastal Management. Change credits from 12 credits to 9-12 credits.
- PLS 255 Horticultural Plant Physiology. Change title to Horticultural Plant Science with accompanying change in description..
- BIO 545 Endocrinology. Change description and prerequisites.

CELS FACULTY SENATE ELECTION

April 11, 2007

CONTINUING CELS FACULTY SENATORS:

David Fastovsky, GEO (2009)

Leonard Gerber, NFS (2009)

Graham Forrester, NRS (2009)

Tom Grigalunas, ENRE (2008)

Gonquin Sun, CMB (2008)

FACULTY NOMINATIONS FOR SENATOR:

Gabriele Kass-Simon, BIO (2008)

Lawrence Juda, MAF (2010)

Bridget Ruemmele, PLS (2010)

William Gordon, LAR (2010)