

College of the Environment and Life Sciences All Faculty Meeting & Mid-Semester Reception Minutes

A regular meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences faculty was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 from 3:30-5:00 PM in the Rhode Island Room of the University Club.

Faculty in Attendance

Steve Alm, James Anderson, Farhad Atash, David Bengtson, Jon Boothroyd, Tom Boving, J. Allan Cain, Richard Casagrande, Paul Cohen, Cathy English, John Gates, Leonard Gerber, Howard Ginsberg, Art Gold, Marian Goldsmith, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, William Gordon, Geoffrey Greene, Frank Heppner, Steven Irvine, Larry Juda, Albert Kausch, Keith Killingbeck, David Laux, Roger LeBrun, Ingrid Lofgren, Anthony Malillo, Bruce Marti, Lenore Martin, Thomas Mather, Brian Maynard, Scott McWilliams, Kathleen Melanson, David Nelson, Joanna Norris, Gregory Paquette, Peter Paton, Katherine Petersson, Evan Pressier, Alison Roberts, Cathy Roheim, Becky Sartini, Angelo Simeoni, Jay Sperry, Gongquin Sun, Stephen Swallow, Robert Thompson, Anne Veeger, Jacqueline Webb, Cheryl Wilga

Administration/Staff in Attendance

Jeff Seemann, Richard C. Rhodes III, Dennis Nixon, Catherine Curtin-Miller, Elissia Wahl, Kim Anderson, Tara Watson

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

I. Approval of Spring 2007 CELS All Faculty Meeting Minutes (*Dennis Nixon*)

Cathy English (NFS) moved to approve the minutes of the Spring 2007 CELS All Faculty meeting; David Nelson (CMB), seconded the motion.

II. 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. C. English moved to approve, D. Nelson seconded the motion.

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

Dean Jeff Seemann presented updates as follows:

- Dean Seemann congratulated two CELS faculty members who have recently joined the ranks of university administration. Keith Killingbeck of Biological Sciences was appointed Associate Dean of the Graduate School alongside fellow BIO faculty member, Harold Bibb. Professor of Nutrition and Food Sciences, Nancy Fey-Yensan, was appointed Associate Dean of the College of Human Science and Services, serving alongside Dean W. Lynn McKinney.

Prior to her appointment, Assoc. Dean Fey-Yensan served as the Assistant Director for Land Grant Programs in the CELS Dean's Office.

Associate Dean Dennis Nixon presented updates as follows:

- In the 2006-2007 academic year, CELS went from 423 freshman to 563 freshman, representing a 33% increase in one year.
- 297 students have sent in 449 transcripts for review.
- 169 students (57%) matriculated into CELS.
- We have 62 potential CELS December graduates. One third of those graduates will walk with distinction compared to 10% of Human Science and Services students and 3% of Arts and Sciences students.
- CELS is #3 in terms of students and we are growing fast.
- CELS enrollment is at an all time high of 1791 students, representing an increase of over 11% from the last academic year.
- Reports from CELS faculty indicate that they are doing very well and adding new sections of our most in demand classes to serve the growing undergraduate population.
- Providing adequate Chemistry classes has been a significant issue for CELS and Pharmacy students, and until the new Pharmacy building comes in line this will likely remain an issue.
- Most of our undergraduate growth has been with students in the biological sciences. The challenge to this growth is that many faculty are spending an inordinate amount of time in academic advising. Any faculty who can provide support by assisting in advising bio students, please contact Kristina Perrelli in the CELS Office of Undergraduate Affairs at kperrelli@mail.uri.edu or at 4-5026 or Dr. Frank Heppner at birdman@uri.edu or at 4-4399.
- Professor Tom Husband, NRS, will be honored at the 2007 NASULGC Annual Meeting in New York, NY as the most recent CELS faculty member to be awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Assoc. Dean Richard C. Rhodes III, Dr. Frank Golet, NRS, and Dr. Roger LeBrun, PLS, are all past recipients of this national award. We are proud to report that CELS has the most recipients of this award in the nation. Congratulations to Dr. Husband!

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

- Assoc. Dean Rhodes first offered accolades to Nancy Fey-Yensan for her new position as Assoc. Dean of HSS. Assoc. Dean Rhodes thanked her for her fantastic work as Assistant Director of Land Grant Programs in the CELS Dean's Office, where her stellar work ethic and presence is missed.
- Assoc. Dean Rhodes entertained the faculty with a photo montage highlighting the progression of CBLS construction. The photos were taken by CELS News Editor, Rudi Hempe over the time period of April 12th, 2007 to November 1st, 2007.
- Assoc. Dean Rhodes invited all CELS faculty and staff to the CBLS Topping Out Ceremony, Wednesday, Nov. 14th at 1:00 PM. This event celebrates the last beam of steel structure being put into place. CELS faculty, staff and students

are welcome to sign the beam from 10:00-12:00 noon the day of the event to put their mark on CELS and URI history. More information can be found at www.uri.edu/cbls.

- Assoc. Dean Rhodes then discussed the process of inhabiting the CBLS. Dean Jeff Seemann briefed faculty on the process involved to create a CELS Space Advisory Committee. The college is in the process of developing the process and this committee's formal charge is to advise the Dean on a fair and equitable process to allocate space not just at CBLS, but also all the buildings CELS' occupies: Woodward, Ranger, Morrill, Washburn and Rodman.
- Prof. Evan Preisser (BIO) inquired about the over all net gain of space CELS will acquire once CBLS is completed and BISC is taken offline? The answer is 80-90,000 sq. ft.
- Prof. Nelson (CMB) asked if we expect that space will be left over in the new building to allow for growth? This question will need to be considered by the CELS Space Advisory Committee as they develop their recommendations. Assoc. Dean Rhodes noted that this could certainly be the basis of one of the committee's recommendations.
- Prof. Heppner (BIO) noted that the new CBLS auditorium will be 1/3 smaller than originally planned, and given the implications associated with that loss of space was there any chance of the BISC auditorium being salvaged? Unfortunately, the answer is no at this point.
- It was inquired for Morrill and Ranger's current residents, is there funding from the university to upgrade those buildings? Dean Seemann responded that he is personally committed to making sure that all of CELS' facilities are upgraded and that all our spaces are used in the best way possible.
- Prof. Lenore Martin (CMB) asked, what will the space advisory committee cover? The committee will provide recommendations on the use of all space: research, teaching, and administrative. The committee is not constrained from discussing how any aspect of space is utilized. Also, the process for formulating the recommendations will be open-ended and on-going.
- The Deans asked that faculty take time to thoroughly review the memo and to take their comments and concerns to their department chair or the dean's office. Comments will go back through the Executive Council before the official charge to the committee is finalized.

IV. Open Forum

- Prof. Bengtson (FAVS) informed the faculty that the University Library faculty asked their faculty senators to convey a message concerning their discontent over recent activities of higher administration and called for a Faculty Senate investigation of said issues, specifically, regarding the provost search. Prof. Bengtson wanted to make CELS faculty aware of the situation.
- A discussion ensued among CELS faculty as to whether they wanted to coordinate a response to the University Faculty's concerns.
- Prof. Goldsmith (BIO) moved to endorse the request of the University Library faculty. Paul Cohen (CMB) seconded the motion and was unanimously approved by CELS faculty.

- Prof. Steve Swallow (ENRE) noted that a similar e-mail from the CELS faculty senators to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee should be sufficient. Regarding the provost search, while the committee seems to be done with their role, the President is open for discussion. Prof. Swallow encouraged all CELS faculty to provide input.
- Associate Dean Dennis Nixon thanked Prof. Swallow for taking such an active role in the provost search.

The next CELS All Faculty Meeting will take place in the Spring of 2008.

With no new business and no additional agenda items, Prof. Paul Cohen (CMB) moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Cathy English (NFS).

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

Cc: Provost M. Beverly Swan

CELS Curriculum Committee Report
CELS All Faculty Meeting
November 7, 2007

Members. Chair David Laux, CMB; Len Gerber, FSN/NFS; Jose Amador, NRS; John Gates, ENRE; Robert Thompson, MAF; Alison Roberts BIO; David Fastovsky, GEO; Anthony Mallilo, FAVS; Richard Sheridan, LAR; Larry Englander, PLS; Dennis Nixon, Dean's Office (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:

GEO 305 Global Warming

NFS 528 Lipoprotein Metabolism in Health and Disease

BIO/GEO 472 Advanced Evolutionary Biology

PLS 324X Vegetable Crops

GEO 113 Natural Disasters

Deleted Courses:

CPL 512 Development of Human Settlements

CPL 540 Community-Based Housing

CPL 542 Housing and Community Development

CPL 543 Methods of Social Policy Analysis

CPL 554 Community Development Funding and Subsidies

CPL 555 Introduction to Economic Development Planning

CPL 589 Master's Project Research

CPL 593-596 Special Problems in Planning

CPL 599 Master's Thesis Research

CPL 624 Planning Policy and Management in Urban Areas

CPL 625 Central City Revitalization and Implementation

CPL 631 Community Planning Studio

CPL 691 Special Problems in Planning

Other Changes:

Change course number of Evolution, BIO/GEO 250 to BIO/GEO 272

Change course number and prerequisites of Natural Selection, BIO 567 to BIO 571

Freshman Option for Direct Matriculation on the Providence Campus for students in the Clinical Lab Science/Biotechnology Manufacturing Option of the B.S. Clinical Lab Science Program.

Change name of Department of Community Planning and Landscape Architecture to Department of Landscape Architecture.

Elimination of the Master's degree program in Community Planning.

DRAFT MEMORANDUM

TO: Ad Hoc CELS Space Advisory Group

FROM: Rick Rhodes, Associate Dean

RE: Ad Hoc CELS Space Advisory Group - Organization and Charge

DATE: November 7, 2007

CC: Jeff Seemann, Dennis Nixon, Cathy Curtin-Miller, Executive Council

The College is entering an exciting and transformative period. We are all looking forward to the completion of the new Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, the demolition of Biological Sciences and the attendant moving of our faculty, staff and students into a host of different office, laboratory and teaching spaces.

The Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences is currently on track for completion in 15 months. In the next several months, we seek the input from the faculty to develop suggestions on the allocation of space in the Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

The initial charge to this group is to develop policy recommendations for the Dean on the allocation of space in the new, \$60 million, Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences. The recommendations that you forward should reflect our core mission as a “public, learner-centered research university.” Further, the recommendations on the allocation of space should be consistent with policies already set by the University. Some of the goals of University space planning are described on the URI website (<http://www.uri.edu/pspd/planserv/seda.html>). I have also asked a planner from Capital Projects to assist in the deliberations.

Specific charges: I ask that the group to first designate a chair (I will serve as ex officio.) I then ask that the chair lead the committee to develop a process by which recommendations on the allocation of office space (faculty, visiting scientist, post-doc, graduate student) and research laboratory space could be formulated. Last, I ask that the recommendations for the allocation of space be forwarded to the Dean by _____. Please think carefully, critically, and strategically at the process for allocating offices and labs in the

Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences and provide suggestions on how best to accomplish that complex set of tasks.

I hope that the recommendations would form the basis for allocation of all of the college's space resources (office, research lab, field, greenhouse and storage.) Last, as the committee engages in its deliberations, I ask that you consider the cornerstone values of the University: respect, open-mindedness, and personal responsibility.

Elissia Wahl will be contacting you about the first meeting. During the first meeting, I'd ask that the group consider the charge, and develop a meeting schedule such that space allocation recommendations are made to the Dean by _____. We then expect to vet the suggestions with the Executive Council and then move these onto the faculty for their consideration.

Thank you for lending your expertise and perspectives to the ad hoc CELS Space Advisory Group. I look forward to your hard work and suggestions.

Committee Members:

Cheryl Wilga, BIO

Dave Nelson, CMB

Chris Anderson, ENRE

Marta Gomez-Chiarri, FAVS

Anne Veeger, GEO

Richard Sheridan, LAR

Rob Thompson, MAF

Cathy English, NFS

Scott McWilliams, NRS

Tom Mather, PLS

Marion Gold, CELS Outreach

Ryan Carrillo, Capital Planning and Design

Rick Rhodes (ex officio)