

## College of the Environment and Life Sciences All Faculty Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences faculty was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 from 3:00-5:00 PM in the Hardge Forum of the Multicultural Center.

### Faculty in Attendance

Steven Alm, Christopher Anderson, Farhad Atash, David Bengtson, Tom Boving, Paul Cohen, Larry Englander, Cathy English, Leonard Gerber, Howard Ginsberg, Art Gold, Marian Goldsmith, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Geoffrey Greene, Frank Heppner, Don Hermes, Linda Hufnagel, Tom Husband, Bethany Jenkins, Darlene Jones, Larry Juda, Keith Killingbeck, Richard Koske, Fred Launer, David Laux, Chong Lee, Anthony Mallilo, Bruce Marti, Lenore Martin, Thomas Mather, Kathleen Melanson, Fred Meyerson, Laura Meyerson, Nathaniel Mitkowski, Daniel Murray, David Nelson, Joanna Norris, Gregory Paquette, Martha Patnood, Peter Paton, Katherine Petersson, Richard Pollnac, Michael Rice, Alison Roberts, Cathy Roheim, Becky Sartini, Linda Sebelia, Brad Seibel, Richard Sheridan, Angelo Simeoni, Jay Sperry, Mark Stolt, Gongqin Sun, Stephen Swallow, Robert Thompson, Emi Uchida, Jacqueline Webb, Cheryl Wilga

### Administration/Staff in Attendance

Kimberly Anderson, Chandu Dondeti, Megan Dyer, Karen Frost, Marion Gold, Cheryl Grasso, Linda Green, Patty Harrington, Elizabeth Herron, Michael Milkman, Brianne Neptin, Dennis Nixon, Ken Payne, Richard C. Rhodes III, Carl Sawyer, Jeff Seemann, Meredith Silvia, Linda Vetovis, Jane Vieira, Elissia Wahl

Prior to the start of business, the following awards were presented to CELS faculty and staff in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the college's research, teaching and outreach mission.

### **CELS Research Excellence Award** *(presented by Prof. Mark Stolt)*

Prof. Yeqiao Wang (CMB)

### **CELS Teaching Excellence Award** *(presented by Prof. Kurt Schnier)*

Prof. Fred Launer (FAVS)

### **CELS Staff Excellence Award** *(presented by Patty Harrington)*

Erin Rainone (Center for Vector-Borne Disease)

### **CELS Outreach Excellence Award** *(presented by Elizabeth Herron)*

Megan Dyer (Center for Vector-Borne Disease)

Congratulations to our 2008 award winners and on behalf of the Office of the Dean, thank you for your hard work and commitment to excellence!

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM.

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

Assoc. Dean Nixon asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Fall 2007 CELS All Faculty meeting; David Nelson (CMB) moved to approve the minutes; Cathy English (NFS) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**2. Curriculum Committee Report (*David Laux*)**

Professor David Laux, (CMB) Chair of the CELS Curriculum Committee, reviewed the curricular activity as attached at the end of the minutes. Paul Cohen (CMB) moved to approve, David Nelson (CMB) seconded the motion.

Associate Dean Nixon announced that this would be Prof. Laux's last semester as chair of the curriculum committee, as Prof. Laux will be retiring this year. Assoc. Dean Nixon thanked Prof. Laux for his exceptional service as curriculum committee chair.

Bylaws require that the chairmanship of the curriculum committee be filled by a faculty member. It is the responsibility of the chair to serve as the liaison between the college curricular affairs committee and the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee and to ensure that issues are tended to and business is properly executed. Please contact Assoc. Dean Nixon if you would like to volunteer for this position.

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

Dean Jeff Seemann presented the following updates as follows:

- Dean Seemann introduced our new Assistant Dean for Development, Amy Porter.
- Dean Seemann provided the faculty in attendance with an update on the budget. \$ 2M was recently cut out of this current FY and a supplemental bill has not yet passed. There is much concern with the FY09 budget. URI is looking at a \$10M cut going into FY09 for a net cut of \$12M. Overall, we are faced with an \$18M deficit, and there is some potential for it to get larger. Academic affairs will be responsible for more than half of that \$18M. The total budget for academic affairs is \$118M. 10% of that budget needs to be cut right away. We need to start thinking creatively about how to deal with subsequent budget cuts. How do we become more of an efficient operation in subsequent budget years when we know we will be expecting budget shortfalls?
- CELS current budget is approximately \$12M, we are facing roughly a 10% cut, which will amount to roughly \$1.2M. Most of this is locked down, so we must look at discretionary dollars. The first thing we are looking at is the retirement savings.

- 66 URI faculty and staff have indicated they will take the retirement buyout. The university is looking at taking the retirement savings and reinvesting those savings in strategic ways.
- An inquiry was raised regarding the impact of fundraising and the Making the Difference campaign; however, these resources not available to replace state dollars, and most of these dollars are committed to specific initiatives such as endowments for scholarships. Donors can be very specific about how they want their money used. Faculty are encouraged to pursue any avenues they may have for fundraising.
- What about increases in tuition? FY09 budget is already built upon 6% increase on in-state, and a 7% increase on out of state. That still leaves us \$18M behind. The Board of Governors is debating another 2% increase. Won't happen until late in this FY and too late to be applied towards this deficit.
- The Dean was asked to elaborate more on what constitutes 'discretionary funds?' It is money that is not contractually obligated- lecturers, department operating budgets, TAs.

Associate Dean Dennis Nixon presented the following update as follows:

- For the first time in the college's history, we have a rain site for commencement. CELS will share the Ryan Center with Arts & Sciences.
- We are expecting approximately the same amount of graduates as last year, but final numbers are not yet available.
- The university is working on getting a new degree on the books- a joint MBA/Master's of Oceanography degree. There may be opportunities in the future for more joint degrees with business, such as an undergraduate marine business degree.

Associate Dean Rick Rhodes presented the following updates as follows:

- CBLS is on time and on budget as a result of the hard work of the construction management at risk firm, and the hard work of the trades. CELS faculty have been an integral part of the building planning and continue to be. This building will serve as the icon for learning and science in the state, will meet the needs of our students and is LEED certified.
- Associate Dean Rhodes encouraged all faculty and staff to provide their input when announcements regarding construction are made.
- Associate Dean Rhodes also thanked all the faculty and staff who worked on the \$400K USDA grant submission for equipment in CBLS.
- The next phase of the CBLS project will be to colonize the building and all are welcome to provide input on the process.

#### **4. Presentation by CELS Ad Hoc Space Advisory Group (*M. Gomez-Chiarri*)**

The CELS Ad Hoc Space Advisory Group consisted of a representative from each department with Ryan Carrillo, the university space planner and Assoc. Dean Rhodes served as an ex-officio member. The purpose of this group was to formulate a process for colonizing CBLs. A copy of the Ad Hoc Committee's presentation, presented by Prof. Gomez-Chiarri is included at the end of the minutes.

Upon review of the CBLs mission statement, Prof. Rice moved to amend mission statement to include the phrase "or other contemporary biological methodologies" after the phrase "molecular-based tools." The motion went open for discussion. Faculty asked for clarification why they did not use the term "biotech." The terms in the mission statement were intended to provide guidance for research synergistic activities.

The motion to amend went to a vote by the faculty: 16 voted favor, 17 voted against.

CELS faculty voted unanimously to approve the report of the ad hoc committee.

#### **5. Election of Faculty Senators (*D.Nixon*)**

Ballots were handed out and faculty were asked to vote for 3 out of the 4 CELS faculty who were nominated for the three open Faculty Senate seats. This is for a three year term from 2008-2011.

Ballots were counted on-site directly following the meeting. The three faculty voted to the senate seats are Profs. Steve Irvine (BIO), Steve Swallow (ENRE), and Bethany Jenkins (CMB).

#### **6. New Business (*D.Nixon*)**

Faculty were asked to vote on a motion that CELS students not only need a 2.0 GPA to graduate, but also need a 2.0 GPA in their major to qualify for graduation. That motion passed unanimously.

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

With no new business and no additional agenda items, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Cc: Provost Donald DeHayes

**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)





## CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES

Report from the CELS Ad Hoc  
Space Committee

### Goals of the ad-hoc committee

- Develop a process to populate the CBLS building that could also be used in future space allocations decisions
- Process should:
  - Be "all inclusive" and open
  - Lead to increased productivity
  - Improve public perception
  - Develop complimentary activities and synergies
  - Economically feasible



## Mission of the CBLS

*CBLS is a facility of the University of Rhode Island's College of the Environment and Life Sciences that will foster nationally prominent research and teaching programs in biotechnology and life science, with a focus on **advancing cutting-edge research**, workforce development, and economic growth in the state of Rhode Island. Dedicated facilities with specialized instrumentation and flexible laboratory space provide a platform that **fosters URI's leadership in the application of modern molecular based-tools to basic and applied problems** to make Rhode Island a healthier, safer and more prosperous place to live. State-of-the-art classrooms and teaching laboratories **will draw talented students to Rhode Island and immerse them in the modern methods and tools** required to rise to the challenges of tomorrow's life science problems.*

## Teaching Space Allocation

Allocation of BIO and CMB labs	BIO, CMB	Done
RFP for leftover space	Dean	May 1st
Proposal review and first allocation of space	Chairs	Mid-May
Space allocation and notification	Dean	Late-May
Review of Dean's allocation plan	Chairs	June 1st
Reevaluation	Chairs	As needed

## Research Space Allocation

Request for proposals	Dean	May 1st
Proposal review and first allocation of space	Space Committee	Early-May
Space allocation plan	Dean	Mid-May
Review of Dean's allocation plan	Space Committee	Late-May
Final plan and notification	Dean	June 1st
Reevaluation	Space Committee	4 years (or at tenure)

## Proposals

- Easy to fill - check boxes
- Additional info:
  - Current and pending funding
  - Curriculum vitae

## Criteria for research allocation ranking

- Research Productivity
- Potential for collaboration and cross-disciplinary research
- Need for special facilities
- Equipment provided by researcher builds capacity and offers opportunities

## Other considerations

- Meet needs of current faculty
- Potential growth of research programs
- Needs of future hires
- Mix of junior and senior faculty

Questions?

