

OFFICE OF THE DEAN
COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES
ALL FACULTY MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2009
3:00- 5:00 PM
GALANTI LOUNGE, LIBRARY, 3RD FLOOR

FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: David Abedon, Kimberly Anderson, Farhad Atash, Peter August, David Bengtson, Jon Boothroyd, Richard Burroughs, Allan Cain, Paul Cohen, Cathy Curtin-Miller, Chandu Dondeti, Cathy English, Leonard Gerber, Howard Ginsberg, Marian Goldsmith, Frank Golet, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, William Green, Geoffrey Greene, Rudi Hempe, Linda Hufnagel, Steven Irvine, Darlene Jones, Larry Juda, Gabriele Kass-Simon, Christopher Lane, David Laux, Seth Macinko, Anthony Mallilo, Lenore Martin, Scott McWilliams, Fred Meyerson, Lenny Moise, David Nelson, Brianne Neptin, Joanna Norris, James Opaluch, Gregory Paquette, Peter Paton, Katherine Petersson, Richard Pollnac, Amy Porter, Evan Preisser, Richard Rhodes, Michael Rice, Alison Roberts, Gongqin Sun, Stephen Swallow, Carol Thornber, Hiro Uchida, Jacqueline Webb, Elissia Wahl, Yeqiao Wang, Cheryl Wilga, Denice Spero.

MINUTES

Dean Fey-Yensan announced that a quorum was present and opened the third meeting of CELS faculty and staff for the Fall 2009 semester.

1. **Welcome (Dean Nancy Fey-Yensan)**

Dean Fey-Yensan gave an overview of the agenda for today's meeting and thanked everyone for coming out for the third time this semester.

Dean Fey-Yensan introduced Theresa Murphy, CELS outstanding freshman, and gave a brief overview of her academic accomplishments.

Dean Fey-Yensan reported to the faculty that we have engaged groups to look at refining the workload planning system. Their aim is maximize efficiency. We are also looking at TA allocation. For the first time ever, we convened the directors of all of our graduate programs. Also, the Chairs met with Nasser Zawia, Dean of the Graduate School today, who is looking forward to stepping up graduate education in CELS.

We have also asked Department Chairs to nominate a masters or PhD student from each program to serve on a CELS Graduate Student Advisory Council. Dean Fey-Yensan encouraged faculty to put forth a name if they know someone well suited for this role.

A 'Day at the Bay' is in the works. We are planning a day to bus undergraduates in CELS down to GSO, tour labs, and have a BBQ. Researchers will be on hand to give presentations. We want to encourage students to stay in the pipeline. While this will be directed to marine affairs and marine biology students, we will be asking faculty to spread the word so all interested students will have a chance to participate.

We are still waiting to hear about \$5M grant from NIST.

Associate Dean Rhodes rolled out the CELS CARES RFP, which has \$120K available for each 3-year project, and we are looking to fund between 5-7 proposals.

The *Meet the Dean* and the University Open House were two great events. F. Heppner led a session teaching students how to study for BIO to set the stage for success in their scientific academic careers.

Congrats to Assistant Dean Kim Anderson on the success of Garrahy Guides. Our guides are tasked with assisting students through the adjustment to college life.

Dean Fey-Yensan also reported that we are looking at turning the campus apartment complex into a sustainable community.

Dean Fey-Yensan encouraged faculty to talk to their chairs about budgetary concerns and also, work with your chairs to make a great case if you need a position. It is really important to tie all requests back to the academic plan. All the documents and metrics concerning budgeting process are on the Provost's website.

2. Celebrating Our Students

a. Update from our Coastal Fellows Program (*Brianne Neptin*)

B. Neptin took the floor and updated the faculty on the status of the Coastal Fellows Program. B. Neptin encouraged faculty to inform her of any projects they may have in the pipeline for planning purposes.

The annual poster celebration will be held on December 12th in the atrium of the CBLS building.

The program is in the process of revamping the website to make it more user friendly and operational for parents, who are the main users. Brianne also mentioned that the program may be looking at some rebranding, because many faculty think that coastal fellowships mean the students are relegated to only working on coastal projects. This is not the case. The CF program can be a resource to all research projects.

Dean Fey-Yensan noted that she is amazed at the amount we invest in undergraduate research. This program started in 1996, and has evolved greatly since then. Brianne is available to come to your classes or departments to give presentations on how to plug in to the CF program.

b. Using our Media and Communications Experts (*R. Hempe & C. Dondeti*)

Rudi Hempe and Chandu Dondeti of the CELS Communications Office briefed the faculty and staff of the mission of their office and updated them on new initiatives. This is the CELS PR branch. Rudi and Chandu want to highlight all the exciting initiatives we have going on in the college. To get coverage, all you have to do is send Rudi an email at celsnews@uri.edu. Rudi also works closely with Todd McLeish in the URI News Bureau. The biggest problem that Todd is facing is that the newspaper industry is shrinking. CELS News is strictly on the web. Todd and the URI news bureau are not competition to us, and Rudi will often tip off Todd if there is a story with broader interest.

Also, Amy Porter is always looking to expand our alumni contact base. If you know an alum who is doing something interesting, please let us know. In the near future CELSNews is looking to start an alumni column; faculty input on this would be greatly appreciated. Alumni events are also important to us. 1-2 week advance notice is ideal on events. CELSNews is interested in awards, programs, projects and research. CELS CARES is a great example of an initiative we want to highlight and give exposure.

3. Curriculum Update (*L. Martin, D. Laux*)

Lenore Martin gave an overview of the curriculum actions that have been approved this semester. The report of the curriculum committee is attached at the end of these minutes. Lenore showed examples of the advising sheets for Marine Bio and CMB. LAR could not get down to 120 credits due to the terms of their accreditation, but they were able to get down to 126 credits. All curriculum changes are translated to major sheets, and we will put all the revised major sheets on the intranet once they are completed. The faculty asked about the time frame for implementing the curricular changes, and fall 2010 would be the earliest that these changes would be in place for implementation.

Curricular changes approved through college then go to the FacSen Curriculum Committee. We missed the deadline to make changes to the catalog and unfortunately, in CMB, courses are listed that don't even exist. The catalog deadline was Oct. 1st.

D. Laux took the floor and briefed the faculty on where we are going with curriculum, and that we are working to get the undergrad curriculum thoroughly revised soon. On the graduate level, we are not as far along, but we have made some progress in recent weeks.

Once we get through the curriculum changes, we will then turn our attention to the catalog.

4. Open Forum

Prof. David Nelson (CMB) took the floor and briefed the faculty on the discussions of ways to incorporate the CELS – CMB graduate programs into the umbrella program in biological and environmental sciences. He noted that this is not set in stone, but a presentation of the group's discussions thus far. The idea was to give these programs a sense of unity. The attached presentation is a straw man and open to further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

CELS Curriculum Committee Report Fall 2009

Members – Fall 2009 Chair Lenore Martin, CMB; Len Gerber, FSN/NFS; Peter Paton, NRS; Jim Opaluch, ENRE; Rob Thompson, MAF.; Alison Roberts BIO; David Fastovsky, GEO; Anthony Mallilo, FAVS; Richard Sheridan, LAR; Larry Englander, PLS; Nancy Fey-Yensan and David Laux, Dean's Off. (ex officio).

New Courses Approved

- AFS132° Animal Agriculture, Food Policy, and Society 3 credits
- MIC/BPS450/550* Practical Tools for Molecular Sequence Analysis 3 credits
- NFS210 Applied General Nutrition 4 credits
- NRS480 Senior Colloquium 1->2 credits
- NFS495 Applied Nutrition Practicum 3 credits
- EVS500X Environmental Science & Management Seminar 1 credit

*also approved by Graduate council for graduate credit

°General Education Course

Other Approved Changes:

- PLS-EHTM-BS
- LAR-BLA
- BIO-BS
- MBIO-BS
- CMB-CLS-BS
- CMB-MIC-BS
- NFS-BS
- NRS-ESM-BS
- NRS-WCB-BS

Other Approved Changes (cont):

CMB-CLS name change to Medical Laboratory Sciences-
MLS

LAR-CPLA closed

Minor Changes

- GEG511 to GEG488 code change
- NFS236 deleted
- NFS337, 443 credits from 3-4
- NFS223, 480, 360, 375, 440, 458, 491, prereq change
- NFS452 deleted
- NFS492 deleted
- BIO445 descript-prereq
- BIO467 descript-prereq
- BIO545 descript-prereq

PhD & MS Degrees in Biological and Environmental Sciences (BES)

Graduate Programs

Cell and Molecular Biology

Organismal and Evolutionary Biology

Ecology and Ecosystem Science

Earth and Sustainable Systems

Graduate committee for the reorganization of CMB – Proposed Program

Committee members: Joel Chandlee (CMB), Niall Howlett (CMB), Bethany Jenkins (CMB), David Nelson (CMB; served as chair/facilitator), Rebecca Brown (PLS), Marta Gomez-Chiarri (FAVS), Chris Lane (BioSci)

Charge from Dean: To meet and design graduate programs (M.S. and Ph.D.) in Cell and Molecular Biology that would be part of the umbrella M.S. and Ph.D. graduate programs in Biological and Environmental Sciences. These programs are for planning purposes and are subject to change by the voting members of the CMB program.

Program(s) in Cell and Molecular Biology

1. CMB part of the Graduate Degree Programs (M.S. & Ph.D.) in Biological and Environmental Sciences (BES)

a. Proposed Course Credit minimum requirements:

- 1) **M.S.:** 18 course credits + 12 research credits (maximum currently allowed by the Grad Manual; this could be changed in the future) = 30 credits
 - a) Can be 15 formal course credits + 3 credits for seminar (i.e. MIC695/696)
- 2) **Ph.D.:** 30 course credits + 42 research credits
 - a) students with an M.S. – M.S. + 12 course credits + 30 research credits
 - b) students without an M.S. – 30 course credits (27 formal course credits + 3 seminar credits) + 42 research credits

b. Proposed specific (minimum) requirements:

- 1) *Umbrella Requirements for all BES graduate students*
 - a) Evolution (500-level) – 3 credits
 - b) Seminar in Research Ethics – 1 credit [to be taken in 1st Fall semester]
- 2) *Core Courses for CMB (required for all CMB students)*
 - a) Graduate Biochemistry (BCH581?) – 3 credits
 - b) Molecular Genetics (500-level) – 3 credits

Note: some prefer naming these courses Cell & Molecular Biology I & II (CMB581 & 582?)

 - c) Seminar – 1 credit (x 3) = 3 credits

CMB Program (continued)

2. Focus areas in CMB:

- a. No formal specific focus areas with formal specific requirements will be designated. We will list for advertising purposes on the website, and other informational advertising, areas of education/research including microbiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, etc., as appropriate.
- b. Doctoral and M.S. committees will decide on specific course requirements for each student according to that student's area of research.

3. Other recommendations:

- a. Adopt the graduate student rotation system currently in place in CMB allowing incoming graduate students to pick a major professor after rotating in 2 (M.S.) or 3 (Ph.D) labs.
 - 1) For students coming in on TA support or without support. Beginning students supported on a faculty member's grant are exempt.
- b. Adopt exam system currently in place in CMB
 - 1) M.S. written comprehensive exam
 - 2) Ph.D. – written qualifying exam; written comprehensive exam (done after submission and approval of dissertation research proposal) is a research proposal (not student's dissertation research; 10 page limit; to be done in 3 wk); oral comprehensive exam is based on the written research proposal.
- c. Membership in CMB or other groups
 - 1) Can primary (voting) membership in one group, but have non-voting membership in multiple groups.

Catalog Description: Master of Science (MSc) and PhD in Biological & Environmental Sciences

The MSc and PhD in Biological & Environmental Sciences are interdisciplinary, interdepartmental graduate degrees that include students from a diverse set of departments including Biological Sciences, Cell and Molecular Biology, Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science, Geosciences, Natural Resources Science, Nutrition and Food Sciences, and Plant Sciences. Contact information and a list of faculty in each of these departments is provided below. Students in the MSc and PhD degrees in Biological & Environmental Sciences are organized into graduate groups that have a common core course(s), field experience(s), and seminars. These graduate groups include Cell & Molecular Biology (CMB), Organismal and Evolutionary Biology (OEB), Ecology and Ecosystem Science (EES), and Earth and Sustainable Systems (ESS). Prospective students are encouraged to contact individual faculty to learn more about the graduate programs and opportunities.

Departments (and Faculty) making up the BES M.S. and Ph.D. Degree Program

- Biological Sciences
- Cell and Molecular Biology
- Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science
- Geosciences
- Natural Resources Science
- Nutrition and Food Sciences
- Plant Sciences

Graduate Groups and Specializations

- ***Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB)***: this graduate research group focuses on the molecular basis of life offering solid foundations in biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular genetics with an emphasis on interdisciplinary training. We are committed to preparing students for highly successful careers. To meet this goal, we work together as scientists, teachers, and students to identify and address the most relevant problems in this broad area.
- **Research interests of the CMB faculty include**: the molecular basis of microbial colonization and virulence; the roles of microbial consortia in the marine environment; comparative and evolutionary genomics; the molecular origins of cancer; the molecular biology and genetic modification of plants; role of endogenous and environmental signals in the regulation of gene expression and differentiation; evolution of developmental gene regulation; genetics of marine organisms.