

Minutes of the October 24, 2013 Meeting of the CELS Executive Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences Executive Council was held at 12:30pm in CBL 435. Members present were Associate Dean Rhodes; Department Chairs Bengtson, Fastovsky, Greene, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Roberts, and Sun; CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice, and *ex-officio* members Curtin-Miller, Messier, and Porter. Members absent were Department Chairs Gold, and Thompson; Associate Dean Veeger, and *ex-officio* member Anderson. LAR was represented by Prof. Sheridan. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting of the Executive Council was made by Bengtson and seconded by Sheridan. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.*

Announcements:

1. The office of the University Affirmative action Officer will begin a series of workshops soon for search committee members in order to boost diversity hiring at the University.
2. The Faculty Senate has recently passed a University-wide open access policy for publications produced by the University community. The intent is to provide our faculty and staff authors greater control over their intellectual creations and aid greater opportunity for greater dissemination. Information on Open Access Policy can be found at http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/oa_policy_terms.html
3. The URI Foundation is working on initiative to offer a number of naming opportunities for buildings, classrooms and others for the purpose of building the endowment.
4. Dean Kirby gave a brief report on the state of the University budget. Efforts are underway to request increased state funding for the next fiscal year due to the governor's pledge to hold tuition steady. Budget shortfall in the past year has been filled by greater number of out of state students enrolling and retention rates of students increasing. Enrollment of students is in excess of 16,600 students or about 40% more students than a few years ago, but with 40 less faculty.
5. To counteract future budget shortfalls, colleges are asked how to deliver the curriculum and other academic output with fewest possible lecturers and ad hoc faculty.
6. VP for Research and Economic Development Gerald Sonnenfeld and GSO Dean Bruce Corliss are in the process of developing an international MOU with the University of Southampton in England in Marine Sciences and Policy. CELS faculty & staff may find opportunities in the arrangement.
7. On Friday October 25, there will be a signing of an MOU with the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Affairs in the Republic of Indonesia who will be sending 25 to 30 of their agency staff for fully-funded graduate studies at URI, mostly in CELS. Dr. Gellwyn Jusuf, Secretary General of the Indonesian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Affairs who is spearheading this MOU with URI is a graduate of CELS-

ENRE, and he is receiving a distinguished alumni award at an upcoming ceremony. Dean Kirby announced that there may be considerable opportunities for the college emerging in the Southeast Asian region in general.

New Business:

1. Discussion ensued about overhead distribution policies in the departments. Dean Kirby asked that if departments have not recently reviewed their overhead return & distribution policies formalized they should do so and have faculty vote on such policies and report their policy back to the Dean's Business Office.
2. Discussion ensued about timetables of the moves out of Morrill & Ranger Halls. Dean Kirby explained that the University Administration had set a September 30 deadline for all moves to be completed. Laboratory renovations are underway in Woodward Hall to accommodate the moves and that all moves should be completed by the end of the semester.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary