

Minutes of the December 19, 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 11:30pm at the University Club. Members present were Department Chairs, Bengtson, Green, Greene, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Roberts, and Thompson; Associate Dean Rhodes, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice, and *ex-officio* members Curtin-Miller, Messier, and Porter. Members absent were Department Chairs Fastovsky, Gold, and Sun; Associate Dean Veeger, and *ex-officio* member Anderson. CMB was represented by Professor Sperry and NRS was represented by Professor Williams; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve minutes of the December 5, 2013 meeting of the Executive Council was made by Greene and seconded by Thompson. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.*

Announcements:

Most announcements consisted of university-wide news announced at the most recent Council of Deans meeting:

1. Associate Dean Veeger is out of town, so she will not be making usual reminders to the Faculty to get their grades in on time. Deadline for grade submission (actual posting) is noon on December 27th. It is critical that the grades are posted in a timely fashion.
2. It was again proudly announced that nine CELS faculty members were successful in their applications for sabbatical for the next academic year.
3. The Academic Summit held under the sponsorship of the Provost and the Joint Committee on Academic Planning will be held January 17th from 9am-4pm in the Memorial Ballroom. CELS Faculty are encouraged to attend.
4. Budget narratives for forming the FY 2015 budget are due in the Provost's Office on Feb 3. Departments are asked to review there needs an discuss with the Dean for inclusion in the report.
5. Department chairs were reminded to submit request for Course Fees to Cyndi Messier by December 27
6. Fall 2015 preliminary schedules for posting up on Peoplesoft. Department chairs are reminded to work with Ken Sisson in the Registrar's Office to get them in order.
7. Meeting about possible formation of a School of Health Sciences are continuing. Faculty are urged to participate in the discussions.
8. Work is underway to evaluate how lecturers and per-course instructors are used across campus in light of Affordable Health Care Act implications to benefits packages. Are we doing business in the most cost-effective manner? Can money be freed up for mor faculty lines?
9. Stipends for graduate students and status of post-doctoral fellows is also under review? Should post-docs be treated as "trainees" vs. employees? Could pooling of fringe across employee classifications make for more cost effective alternatives given the Affordable Care Act?

10. The Travel Module on Peoplesoft will be coming on-line soon. It is expected that travel authorizations, ticket purchases and reimbursements will go much faster than we are accustomed to in the current system. See Catherine Curtin-Miller for specifics of the program.
11. VP Gerald Sonnenfeld of the Division of Research and Economic Development will be retaining a grant consulting firm to assist PIs in preparing & pre-reviewing large grant proposals prior to submission. This is seen as a way of improving acceptance success. PIs are encouraged to try out this service to see if it is right for us.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary