

## Minutes of the December 5, 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 CBLS 435. Members present were Department Chairs Fastovsky, Green, Greene, Gold, Mitkowski, Roberts, and Sun; CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice, and *ex-officio* members Curtin-Miller, and Porter. Members absent were Department Chairs Bengtson, Opaluch and Thompson; Associate Dean Rhodes Associate Dean Veeger, and *ex-officio* members Anderson, Curtin-Miller, and Messier. ENRE was represented by Professor Emi Uchida; Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of Minutes:** *A motion to approve minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting of the Executive Council was made by Gold and seconded by Fastovsky. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.*

### **Announcements:**

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

1. The Undergraduate Research Fellows poster presentations will be occurring in the CBLS Atrium on Tuesday December 10.
2. It was announced that nine CELS faculty members were successful in their applications for sabbatical for the next academic year.
3. The J-Term program is beginning operations this January. Departments are asked to suggest courses that might be good to offer during J-Term. It was requested that the Dean approach the Provost's Office about possibly having chemistry labs as J-Term offerings.
4. CELS will be initiating a policy of issuing a letter of successful completion of credits to a degree if students complete all of their graduation requirements at the end of J-Term (for students to show potential employers and the like prior to May graduation)
5. Honors Program Director Lynn Derbyshire is exploring the possibility of offering larger sections of Honors Program courses. This might be of interest to CELS faculty offering very large classes such as BIO 101 and AVS 101 interested in seeing HPR versions of their courses.
6. Grad enrollment is down URI-wide, but up in CELS, primarily from growth in the new MESM Program. MESM has grown from 8 to 45 students in the last four years.
7. The URI Budget Process will be discussed at the upcoming CELS Faculty and Professional Staff meeting. A handout sheet from the Provost's Offices has been posted as an addendum to the meeting agenda at: [http://web.uri.edu/celsgov/files/agenda\\_supplement\\_1\\_2013\\_12\\_10.pdf](http://web.uri.edu/celsgov/files/agenda_supplement_1_2013_12_10.pdf) The Dean noted that an increase of tuition and fees will be unlikely in the next fiscal year.
8. A reassessment of course fees is currently underway by the University. If courses offered by CELS entail materials, transportation (field trips, etc) or other expenses that can be justified, course fees may be appropriately assessed to students. Faculty are

asked to submit their fee proposals & justification statements to Associate Dean Veeger by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

9. Dr. Deborah Sheeley will be joining CELS in the capacity of Associate Director of Extension beginning February 9. She will also have an appointment as a Full Research Professor in the Department of Natural Resources Sciences and teach two courses per year in the area of sustainability. Dr. Sheeley comes to us from the Institute of Food Production and Sustainability in USDA/NIFA where she has served as Assistant Director.

**New Business:**

1. There was a vigorous discussion about recent changes in the promotion and tenure forms that are using the university's Sakai system as a platform. Departments were asked to document any glitches and problems that might cause users to waste time and incur unnecessary aggravation. Portability of documents from year-to-year was noted as a key shortcoming of the system, causing unnecessary waste of time loading & reloading of documents.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**Adjournment:** *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm*

Respectfully Submitted:  
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary