

Approved Minutes of the August 29, 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 10:00am in CBL 435. Members present were Associate Dean Rhodes; Department Chairs Bengtson, Green, Greene, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Roberts, Sun and Thompson, and Faculty Secretary Rice. Members absent were Associate Dean Veeger, Department Chairs Fastovsky and Gold; CE Representative Morreira, and *ex-officio* members Anderson, Curtin-Miller, Messier, and Porter. NRS was represented by Prof. Stolt. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July 22, 2013 meeting of the Executive Council were approved as written.

Announcements:

1. The University is in the process of revising sexual harassment policies and from the campus community at large will be sought out for consultation this semester.
2. Advising day is September 3. Departments are asked to participate.
3. September 15th is the deadline date for submission of sabbatical applications for the 2014-15 academic year.
4. Department chairs are asked to formally notify all faculty members in their departments up for Promotion and/or tenure and annual review, and send copy of formal notification to Cyndi Messier.
5. Dean Kirby announced that on September 13th, a group of professional planners from around the state will be visiting the College to discuss how to better deliver planning education in RI.
6. Dr. Gerald Sonnenfeld from Clemson University has assumed the post of Vice President for Research and Economic Development.
7. Dean Kirby announced that the formal announcement for a new CE Associate Director search will be released soon.

New Business:

1. Staffing of College committees:
 - a. Departments are asked to nominate one professional staff from their department to sit on the Dean's staff advisory council who will be meeting quarterly with the Dean.
 - b. Departments are asked to nominate faculty members for service on the Research and Cooperative Extension Committees. Names of nominees should be submitted to Cyndi Messier before September 15. An election of committee members will be held by electronic balloting during the week of September 16.
2. CELS International programming and inter-university cooperation:
 - a. MOUs with a number of universities and the Agency for Fisheries and Coastal Management in Indonesia are in the works. The Indonesian government wants to send about 22 fully funded grad students to the College over the next two years. A visiting delegation from the Indonesian government will be visiting the College on September 10. According to the US Ambassador to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), USAID programming in the Southeast Asia region is switching from economic development toward more biodiversity and resource management programming that may provide excellent future possibilities for the College.

b. Saudi Arabia is another country that is interested in sending more students to URI. As for students from many countries, we will need to develop a mechanism by which students may study intensive English in order to receive acceptable TOEFL and GRE scores for admission to the Graduate School. There was discussion about conditional admissions and English instruction & testing as part of programming, utilizing current ACE capacities on campus.

c. There is a Global Environmental Initiative in the works in the College led by Professors Gold and August. The discussion is to include MESM within the Initiative, and regular programming and perhaps some new post-graduate one-year certificate programs in offerings in the Initiative as appropriate.

3. Status of Administrative Support Services. There was a discussion of how to arrange secretarial services and copying machines to best accommodate faculty from various departments in different buildings. Dean Kirby stated that there is an upcoming meeting of the administrative staff on how to best deliver administrative support. For copying, he said that faculty assigned to various buildings may use the copiers from other departments and rates of expenditures will be monitored to reimburse departments for "overages." However, he urged prudence in copying practices.

4. Discussion ensued about the Space Committee. Dean Kirby reminded all that the proper functioning of the Space Committee as an advisory body is critical to the process of space allocation, especially as Morrill Hall and Ranger come off line. Moves are now underway & proper advising by faculty is critical to achieving optimum allocation of a scarce resource.

5. Discussion ensued about College reorganization. Dean Kirby stated that he will be calling a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Reorganization early in the semester, prior to the October Faculty and Professional Staff meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business

Adjournment: It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15am

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary