

Minutes of the September 26, 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, Gold, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Roberts, Sun and Thompson, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice, and *ex-officio* members Curtin-Miller, Messier, and Porter. Members absent were 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 August 29, 2013 meeting of the Executive Council was made by Bengtson and seconded by Thompson. Minutes were approved as written.

Announcements:

1. Rhode Island is establishing an initiative on RI industrial policy. This may provide opportunities for economists and policy experts in the CELS. More information can be found at <http://www.collaborativeri.org>
2. According to institutional research and the Provost, URI has about a 63% graduation rate for students according to a federal formula that excludes transferees. There will be efforts over the next year to develop strategies to improve the nominal four-year graduation rate.
3. Discussion is underway on campus about a possible reorganization of the Health-related programs. FSN and CMB are part of some of the discussions. Dean Kirby said that the Provost has pledged that departments would remain intact in any reorganization. There would be no 'cherry picking' of faculty from existing programs.
4. The Graduate School will be holding a Graduate Faculty summit at the Ocean Cliff Hotel in Newport on October 15. Pre-registration is required before October 2 through the Graduate School.
5. The Provost's Office is currently conducting a review of all MOUs and MOAs among units of the university and any extramural cooperators. Faculty and staff have any active MOUs or MOAs currently in place, please bring them to the attention of Dean Kirby.
6. Associate Dean Rhodes announced there is an inventory of Graduate Student office space currently underway to better understand current utilization and the needs of departments.
7. Dean Kirby announced that there is an initiative to better integrate CELS web communication to enhance science and environmental communication and outreach capability. He said that a new research associate, Becca Treitsch, who has science communication expertise, will be working with the college on this effort.
8. Dean Kirby asked if all Departments had approved their procedures for P&T and Annual Reviews. The process for this academic year is now underway, and he offered to review any faculty member's package prior to formal submission if he were asked.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Old Business:

1. Staffing of College committees:
 - a. The Dean's College Staff Advisory Committee is being formed. Departments are reminded if they have not done so to nominate one professional staff from their department to sit on the council who will be meeting quarterly with the Dean.

b. Departments were reminded to nominate faculty members for service on the Research and Cooperative Extension Committees. There is need to elect members to there important committees so they can begin their work.

Adjournment: It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary