

Minutes of the November 20, 2014 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 9:00am at the CBL 435. Members present were Department Chairs, English, Fastovsky, Green, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Sun, and Thompson; Associate Deans Rhodes, Sheely, and Veeger, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Curfman, and Messier. BIO Chair Wilga, and *ex-officio* member Anderson were absent; BIO was represented by Professor Goldsmith; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Fastovsky and seconded by English to approve the minutes of October 23, 2014 and they were unanimously approved as written.*

Special Presentation:

Gary Bozylinski, the University Chief Information Officer provided an overview of the plans to move the University's primary email system onto a Google Applications for Education Platform beginning early January 2014. The existing mail.uri.edu etal.uri.edu. and my.uri.edu system will remain in place until about September 30, 2015 to allow all faculty, staff, students and affiliates sufficient time to properly move all of their desired old email files onto the new system. The new system will allow for much greater storage capacity and spam filtering capability than the existing system. Email users will have considerable support in migrating to the new email system. In addition to Nate Broomfield, our own in-house IT Specialist here in CELS, the University will be securing the services of a "migration vendor" to assist users in the transition. When the Google Apps email begins, all email to the users primary email account (e.g. jsmith@mail.uri.edu) will go to the new system. Any aliases (e.g. smith@uri.edu or ramlover@uri.edu) will keep on going to the old email system until their aliases are manually redirected to the new system. In practical terms, most people may have to access email on the two systems until they make the full transition. The University has pledged full support.

Announcements:

1. Dean Kirby announced that there had been a meeting of the Council of Deans with the main topic concerning the 55 new faculty lines will be hired in the next four years (about 40 tenure-track lines and 15 lecturers over and above the usual "replacement allotment"). The draft vision for the hiring plan was very close to being finalized and will be released soon. Three key criteria to be considered are impacts on teaching & learning; research & scholarship; and innovation & excellence. Successful proposals for new hires must touch on all three of the key criteria. The more collaborative and interdisciplinary the proposed hires would be, the better we will do. "Be robust in your requests." Large interdisciplinary courses for 200+ undergrads would be looked on very favorably in the process. Departments should use the standard "CELS format" in making faculty hire requests for both the "regular" and new hire initiative. Many sections of teaching covered by per-course instructors will be covered by the new hires, so careful attention must be given by departments to instructional needs and scheduling. There may be workload adjustments among faculty.

2. Discussion ensued about university-wide and CELS undergraduate and graduate enrollments in the context of the hiring initiative.
3. It was mentioned by Dean Kirby that the introduction of the MESM program built using existing resources along with the developing Hydrology & Planning Certificate programs are gathering students and putting us in a better position with the new hire plan.
4. Faculty Secretary Rice and Prof. Goldsmith mentioned that the new General Education Program will be popping out of the Implementation Committee sometime in the next few months, necessitating ALL general education courses to reapply for GEN-ED status and must comply with the new criteria. It may be of considerable advantage to develop CELS gen-ed courses early to capture students looking for interesting CELS-related topics for their gen-ed experience.

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 10:35 pm*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary