

Minutes of the December 4, 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 CBLS 435. Members present were Department Chairs, English, Green, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Sun, Thompson and Wilga; Associate Deans Rhodes, Sheely, and Veeger, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* member Silvia. GEO Chair Fastovsky and *ex-officio* members Anderson and Messier were absent; GEO was represented by Professor Boving; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Opaluch and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014 and they were unanimously approved as written.*

Announcements:

1. Dean Kirby announced that the Council of Deans has been discussing the criteria going into hiring plan for the additional 55 faculty members to be hired over the next four years.
2. Key concerns of the Provost's office are enrollments of graduate students, retention and timely completion by undergrads, and the numbers of low-enrollment courses. Novel ways to keep low enrollment classes full increase graduate studies may be through non-thesis programs such as the MESM that relied upon tuition-paying students. There may be new opportunities in hybrid-online courses or other novel approaches such as industry partnerships and specialized short courses. However, CCE has a special niche in the University as the center for "Special Programs," involving non-traditional students. Involvement by faculty paid using state funds is difficult, so there are ongoing discussions about how the system can be improved. Better planning can reduce number of courses.
3. University Administration is leading discussion of a new sexual harassment policy involving new rules and trainings for university community members will be announced soon.
4. The Retreat for Graduate Faculty and the CELS Faculty and Staff meeting will be held simultaneously on the morning Tuesday December 9. Dean Kirby expressed concern that there would be enough faculty representation at both meetings. Department chairs were asked to assure that there is enough departmental representation at both meetings. Quorum for the CELS Faculty and Staff Meeting is 25% of the full-time tenure track faculty.
5. Associate Director Sheely announced that CE and the Provost will be jointly sponsoring a reprise the Smith-Lever Centennial Lecture given by Prof Rice of FAVS at West Virginia University. The lecture will be held Monday, Dec 8 at 4:00pm in CBLS 010 and light refreshments will be served.
6. Associate Dean Veeger announced that faculty should be making sure that their grad students are registering for Spring Semester classes. Also, make sure that all Fall Semester grades are posted in a timely fashion.
7. Associate Dean Rhodes mentioned that he is working with the NORESKO Company to do an energy utilization audit in CBLS and other CELS Buildings. Surprisingly as much as 65% of all energy consumed by CBLS is by the HVAC system of the building, including the chemical hoods. Members of the CELS community should be aware of workers going around on this project, but this should not be disruptive.
8. The CELS Holiday Party will be from 5 to 8pm on Tuesday December 9 at the University Club.
9. Business Manager Silvia announced that the back pay from past summer salaries has been paid out. Discussion ensued about the source accounts for the salary payments.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

There was no new business

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary