

Minutes of the September 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 CBL 435. Members present were Department Chairs, English, Fastovsky, Green, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Thompson and Wilga; Associate Deans Rhodes and Veeger, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Curfman, Messier and Porter. CMB Chair Sun, CE Associate Director Sheely, and *ex-officio* member Anderson were absent; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *The minutes of April 17, 2014 were unanimously approved as written.*

Announcements:

1. Dean Kirby announced some news from the Council of Deans. The major news was that 55 new faculty lines will be hired in the next four years (about 40 tenure-track lines and 15 lecturers). A major focus will be the delivery of large general education courses. A preliminary assessment of how hires would be allocated will come from the Provost around Sept. 17th. Discussion ensued about the strategic implications for CELS.
2. Associate Dean Veeger briefly discussed the implementation of the Administrative Units mentioning that administrative support should be enhanced. She urged chairs to remind faculty to be judicious in photocopying & that photocopying whole chapters is technically illegal...and wastes paper. Use Sakai, make pdfs and other strategies to make material available to students. Course fees cannot be used to buy textbooks. Paying undergrad TAs with course fees is permissible. Course fee requests are due in early January. If fees are requested, a course budget must accompany the request showing the expenses and the per-student cost based on projected number of students in the course. See Associate Dean Veeger if there are any questions.
3. Associate Dean Rhodes announced that the beginning of the semester has started off well with minimal glitches. He announced that all space requests should be sent to the Space Committee, and that there is need for a new chairperson of this critical committee. Discussion ensued about one department requesting another department's space. All affected parties need to be involved in the process. Associate Dean Rhodes reminded all that the Space Committee is advisory and performs a valuable data collection function.
4. Amy Porter said that she would be visiting departments soon to discuss fundraising. CELS Distinguished Alumni Award winners were announced: 1) Dianne Pennica, CMB, PhD1977; Edward Euber, ENRE, MS 1976; Perry Raso, FAVS BS 2002, MS 2006. The annual Distinguished Alumni Gala will be held in Newport on October 25.
5. Marcia Morreira reported for CE on behalf of Debby Sheely. October 14-16 is the CE Sustainability Month Celebration. It will be a big celebration as it coincides with the Smith-Lever Act Centennial. Contact Associate Director Sheely or Marcia if you have any ideas or wish to participate. Associate Director Sheely, Kate Venturini and Mike Rice will be representing CELS at the National Smith-Lever Centennial Symposium, on September 24-25 hosted by West Virginia University in Morgantown.

New Business:

1. Chairperson Green brought up the topic of jointly appointed faculty among different colleges and departments. Discussion ensued. Dean Kirby said that it is a major topic of discussion in the Council of Deans.

2. It was noted that the CELS fiscal reorganization was mentioned in the annual welcome letter from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Old Business:

There was no old business

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary

from some supplemental notes by Cyndi Messier & David Fastovsky