

Minutes of the October 26, 2015 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 3:30 pm at the CBL 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs, Fastovsky, Gold, Sun, Thompson, and Wilga; Associate Dean Veeger; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Silvia, Palmer and Van Buren. Department Chairs English, Gomez-Chiarri, Opaluch, and Mitkowski; and Associate Deans Rhodes, and Sheely were absent; FAVS was represented by Professor Bengtson, PLS was represented by Professor Brown, and ENRE was represented by Professor E. Uchida; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Van Buren and seconded by Veeger to approve the minutes of April 30, 2015 and they were unanimously approved. It was moved by Gold and seconded by Fastovsky to approve the minutes of October 5, 2015 and they were unanimously approved.*

Announcements:

1. Dean Kirby reported from the Council of Dean's meeting that the Provost is very insistent on the development of Grand Challenge courses, which will be a key element of the new Gen Ed program. Colleges that do not develop GC courses will not get new resources. The dean wants us to develop one per dept, at least. He will be happy to come and talk to departments about them. A GC course needs to be an interdisciplinary approach to confronting some kind of issue and can be offered at any level 100-400.
2. URI has seen increases in enrollment, retention and graduation rates. This is noteworthy because many schools in the region are missing their targets. Data are presented in *Appendix 1*.
3. Budget: Preliminary word is that there will be a tuition freeze for next year. Costs are rising. The hope is that the RI Legislature will allocate more money to URI. Several searches for faculty are underway.
4. There is a training workshop being planned by the Provost's Office for the late Spring for department chairs. Topics include personnel management, budget, promotion and tenure procedures and others.
5. There are plans to replace the Visitor's Center at the entrance to campus with something more welcoming and functional with some meeting rooms.
6. The 10-year NEASC accreditation review is coming up. The University is looking for a faculty member to chair the effort and others to be involved in leading subcommittees.
7. Strategic planning for Cooperative Extension is moving forward under Associate Dean Sheely. Faculty and stakeholder input will be needed at some point.
8. Undergraduate advising: The University has purchased software called StarFish that will let advisors know how their students are doing in real time. It will pull grades out of Sakai, so faculty just need to keep entering grades in the Gradebook, not re-enter grades in the new software. Also, the search for the new academic advisor position has been completed and Jennifer A. Legare will be coming on board from University College to fill the position previously held by a grad student advisor. CELS will hire another staff advisor next year to replace the other grad student advisor. Finally, there was discussion about the earlier deadline for students to submit their Intent to Graduate forms this year. Confusion reigned

because students and advisors thought that they had to list specific courses for Spring, 2016 before they even had a chance to register. It turns out that specific courses are not required, just categories, like "Concentration Credit", "Supporting Elective", "Gen Ed (A)", etc.

9. Departments need to assess their previous 5-year faculty requests and make any adjustments necessary and notify Dean Kirby.

10. Meredith Silvia announced that they are scheduling more training for travel and the new T-cards.

11. Michael Rice announced that there are vacancies on CELS committees, specifically one on Bylaws and Review committee, one on Commencement, and one on Space. There will be a general announcement coming forth on the CELS listserver calling for nominees from eligible departments to stand for election during November.

12. If faculty or staff are applying for any money from foundations, please let Kari Van Buren know, so that the University (URI Foundation) can coordinate requests to the various granting agencies.

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 4:30pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary

with supplementary notes from David A. Bengtson

APPENDIX 1

Enrollment & Student Success Highlights: Fall 2015

The University is pleased to report another strong record year for enrollment. In addition, the University continues to implement various student success initiatives to foster student success and timely graduation. As an active member of Complete College America and a supporter of the upcoming proposed Complete Rhode Island plan, we are pleased with the following outcomes and enrollment highlights.

Overall Enrollment Highlights

- ❖ URI's Fall 2015 headcount enrollment is 16,831 students – an all-time record for the University.
- ❖ The University continues to diversify its student body. For the Fall 2015 overall enrollment, 19.6% of students come from underrepresented groups. With the addition of international students, this number represents 22.9% of the overall student body. In the past 10 years, these numbers have increased by 68%/70%.
- ❖ For the Fall 2015 new student class, the University enrolled 3135 first year students and 523 transfer students.
- ❖ The University received a record number of first-year applications – 21,252.
- ❖ The average SAT score for the new student class is 1110 (Critical Reading & Math).
- ❖ The average HS GPA increased to 3.46.
- ❖ 22.5% of first-year students come from underrepresented groups (excludes international).
- ❖ The University enrolled a record number of honors-eligible first-year students.

Graduation, Retention & Student Success Highlights

- ❖ URIs 4-year graduation rate (2011 cohort) is 47.1%, an increase of 5 % from the previous year.
- ❖ URIs 6-year graduation rate (2009 cohort) is 63.2% an increase of 4.3 % from the previous year.
- ❖ Overall first-year retention (2014 cohort) including 6-year PMD students, is 84.3% -- an increase of 1.9% from the previous year.
- ❖ First-year in-state retention, including 6-yr PMD students, is 88.7%, an increase of 3.6% from previous year.
- ❖ First-year out-state retention, including 6-yr PMD students, is 81%, an increase of .9% from previous year.
- ❖ URIs 15 to Finish credit completion initiatives have resulted in a 28% increase in students on track for timely graduation. 73% of last year's first year cohort earned 30 or more credits after their first year. This is an increase from 45% a decade ago.
- ❖ Finish What You Started – URIs program to graduate former students, celebrated its 127th graduate in just a few years. Over 150 FWYS students are enrolled for the Fall 2015.
- ❖ 606 students took part in URIs 2015 Winter J Term. The term offered 29 in-person courses and 17 travel courses to destinations throughout the world.

DRAFT Yield by Program by Residency

Program

	Arts & Sciences	Business	Engineering	Human Science & Services	Environment & Life Sciences	Nursing	Pharmacy	UC - Undeclared
	IS/OS	IS/OS	IS/OS	IS/OS	IS/OS	IS/OS	IS/OS	IS/OS
Applied 4469/16786	1069/3317	653/3121	570/1731	557/2278	444/1921	406/1607	161/842	609/1965
Admitted* 3258/12193	857/2413	489/2252	343/1193	451/1901	399/1674	130/696	82/358	507/1426
72.9%/72.6%	75%/77%	78%/78%	60%/69%	81%/84%	90%/87%	32%/43%	51%/43%	83%/73%
Yielded** 1358/1779	180/312	240/298	154/210	189/272	187/264	57/123	53/119	238/182
43%/57%	37%/63%	45%/55%	42%/58%	41%/59%	42%/58%	32%/68%	31%/69%	57%/43%
41.7%/14.6%	35%/12%	37%/13%	45%/18%	42%/14%	47%/16%	44%/18%	65%/33%	47%/13%

*Program admitted to may not be the same program as applied

**Data as of September 10, 2015; Source: FRESHPREDMOD

***OS includes regional and out of country



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