

Minutes of the March 19, 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 2:00 pm at the CBL 435. Members present were Department Chairs, English, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Green, Sun, Thompson, and Wilga; Associate Deans Rhodes, Sheely, and Veeger, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Silvia and Van Buren. Department Chairs Fastovsky, Mitkowski, and Opaluch, and *ex-officio* members Anderson and Messier were absent; GEO was represented by Professor Savage; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by English and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve the minutes of February 5, 2015 and they were unanimously approved as written.*

Announcements:

1. Dean Kirby introduced the incoming CELS Development Officer Kari Van Buren who has come to CELS after development work at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Newport Historical Preservation Society. A warm CELS welcome was afforded to Kari.
2. Dean Kirby announced that Cyndi Messier, executive assistant in the dean's office, will be relocating back to her home state of Wisconsin effective April 9.
3. Dean Kirby stated that budget hearings with the Provost will be held March 27th. After that meeting we will know more about going ahead with proposed faculty hiring plans.
4. Dean Kirby mentioned that two Faculty Senators from CELS have terms that are expiring this year and that there is a need for a Senatorial election soon. He thanked outgoing Senators Kathy English (NFS) and Steve Irvine (BIO) for their service over the last three years. Nominations are sought from the departments. Election will be done electronically in early April according to CELS polling procedures.
5. Faculty Secretary Rice mentioned that in addition to the need for Senatorial Elections, all of the CELS College Committees have members who are completing their terms but all are eligible for reelection for another 3-year term. Committee members with expiring terms are as follows:
 - a) Curriculum Committee: Y.Q. Wang (NRS); Rebecca Brown (PLE); James Opaluch (ENRE)
 - b) Research Committee: Tracey Dalton (MAF); James Opaluch (ENRE)
 - c) Cooperative Extension and Outreach Committee: Rebecca Brown (PLE)
 - d) Space Committee: Thomas Mather (PLE); Thomas Boving (GEO); Mark Stolt (NRS)
 - e) Commencement: Angelo Simeone (LAR)
 - f) Bylaws and Review: Katherine Petersson (FAVS)

All CELS committee members are thanked for their diligent service on these committees. College Committee Elections will be held along with the Senatorial Elections by electronic balloting early in April. Department chairs from departments without representation on committees are asked for volunteers who would agree to stand for election.

6. Associate Dean Sheely thanked all who contributed to the CE Annual Report & urged others with CE or other Outreach Projects to contribute to the report.

7. College Development Officer Van Buren introduced herself to the Executive Council and mentioned that she is interested in visiting with all of the departments.
8. Associate Dean Veeger announced that URI Welcome Days will be on April 11, 18, and 25 and that volunteers from the departments are needed to participate in this important event. The format of the Welcome Days has been restructured for this year to provide a much more personalized experience for the prospective students and their families.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

Based upon recent Faculty Senate action to define who are eligible faculty for voting on Senate matters, there was a general discussion about who constitutes the "full-time continuing faculty." Department chairs were polled as to current procedures on the participation of lecturers and clinical faculty in their departments. Consensus was that once a lecturer or clinical faculty member was rehired after their first year contract that they would be a "continuing" faculty member for voting purposes in the College. There may be need for clarification in the Bylaws.

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary