

Minutes of the April 30, 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, Mitkowski, Opaluch, and Thompson; Associate Deans Rhodes, Sheely, and Veeger, CE Representative Morreira, Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Silvia, Palmer and Van Buren. Department Chairs Fastovsky, Sun and Wilga, and *ex-officio* member Anderson were absent; BIO was represented by Professor Norris, GEO was represented by Professor Savage; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Gomez-Chiarri and seconded by Opaluch to approve the minutes of March 19, 2015 and they were unanimously approved as amended.*

Announcements:

1. In response to several queries about the status of the University's 55 "strategic faculty hires" and the 15 normal annual replacement hires, Dean Kirby announced that the Provost said that there is an expected announcement on or about May 15, 2015 on the FY 2016 positions and shortly thereafter the FY2017 announcement. This means that the searches for both of the fiscal year may be going on simultaneously, particularly since some of the people need to be in place for the Fall Semester.
2. Dean Kirby announced that the University has hired a consulting group to recommend a coherent University-wide policy on Information Technology (IT). Department Chairs were provided copies of the consultant's report and copies are with the Faculty Senate. Faculty are asked to review the document to assure that concerns are fully addressed.
3. Dean Kirby shared the 28 April 2015 Undergraduate Admission Report. At this time CELS as a whole is showing a 16.9% increase over last year, with 360 students admitted and paid. University-wide, admissions are roughly the same as last year with 2,505 students admitted and paid.
4. Associate Dean Veeger provided a brief report on the most recent Council of Deans meeting. The major issue was a change-over of the Library from HELIN to a new cataloging system based on Ex-Libris. Several Universities are already on the Ex-Libris system which has considerable advantages over HELIN. An issue of interlibrary loan and URI community access to Brown University Library material. Contact the URI librarians if this is an issue with you.
5. Associate Dean Veeger urged Department Chairs to check if course fees are being assessed properly per information on E-Campus. There have been reports that some of the assessed fees may be in error due to coding errors.
6. Business Manager Silvia reminded all that the closeout of the 2015 Fiscal Year is nearing and that policies on timing and delivery of purchases before the end of the fiscal year need to be adhered to. Also, an issue of making purchase agreements without the approval of the Controller's Office has been done which has created problems. She strongly urged all to go through proper purchasing channels.
7. Dean Kirby mentioned that the search for the Fisheries Ecologist faculty position is now underway, and there is an offer out to the selected candidate for the Tourism Policy

faculty member. Associate Dean Veeger has been tapped to chair the search for the multi-cultural post-doctoral position.

8. The Spring CELS Faculty and Staff General meeting will be held 9am on Friday May 1 at CBLR Room 10.

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 2:30pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary