

## Minutes of the January 27, 2016 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 1:00 pm at the CBL 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs, English, Gold, Goldsmith, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Sun, and Thompson; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia, and Van Buren. Department Chair Fastovsky; Associate Deans Rhodes, Sheely and Veeger; and *ex-officio* member Morreira were absent; Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of Minutes:** *It was moved by Opaluch and seconded by English to approve the minutes of December 7, 2015 they were unanimously approved.*

### Announcements:

#### Dean Kirby:

1) University College is hiring 10 new professional advisors. There will be 3 UC advisors for CELS, probably starting in July, may not be trained fully until fall. Faculty won't have to do the UC advising. Faculty still can go and discuss the major with students. All of those 3 UC advisors will be trained to advise for all the majors in CELS and will be in contact with our Departments and Programs. When there are issues that require more detailed advice, they will have the contact information of those who can help with more specific questions.

2) NEASC - The process for undertaking the ten-year self-study report for NEASC is beginning. The Provost's Office is looking for faculty volunteers to participate in the process, including chairs the different committees. Dean Kirby is suggesting that Associate Deans would be more appropriate than faculty members for chairing some of the committees. The target date for the completion of the self-study is April of 2017 and followed by a visit from the NEASC review team in October, 2017.

3) Governor Raimondo had commissioned the Battelle Memorial Institute to undertake a study to offer potential business innovation ideas appropriate for Rhode Island. There may be opportunities for the College. A link to the full report can be found here: [Battelle-2016-Rhode Island Report](#)

4) Tentative agreement - A copy of the settled AAUP contract was circulated, and a copy of the contract changes can be viewed here: [AAUP Contract Changes 2014-18](#). There will be a 3% salary increase for faculty starting July 2015. No increase for 2014. There is a complete revamping of definitions of non-tenure track faculty, including lecturers, clinical faculty, research faculty, and faculty of practice. There are new mechanisms for promotion and career opportunities for lecturers. Lecturers with a terminal degree in their field can be promoted to Teaching Professor (staggered starts over the next two years). Lecturers have to prepare a portfolio (the template is being prepared by the Provost's office) for promotion starting March 1st, and as part of the process must be evaluated in the classroom by faculty by April 1st. Evaluation reports are due to the dean by May 1st. Lecturers may perform service within the department and at the college-level as appropriate to their appointment.

**Other Announcements:**

1) Meredith Silvia announced that the University is moving forward with the system of paperless travel authorizations and bookings. Every faculty member in the department will have to apply for a travel card in the near future, the T-card is being implemented soon (tentatively March 1st, probably later). Meredith will send instructions on how to deal with travel procedures, especially for students who may be a bit more complicated procedurally.

2) Kari VanBuren is asking for help to find alumni from each department to be nominated as Big Thinker for CELS publicity efforts, especially those with interesting story lines, (i.e. inspiring, successful, and interesting). Kari is eager to hear from you.

3) Mike Rice is chairing the committee to evaluate the Dean. Notification will come up soon via email the Faculty Senate in a few weeks. All CELS staff and faculty (both tenure & non-tenure track) are asked to please complete the "Survey Monkey" instrument within two weeks via the secure link that will accompany the email announcement. The survey is completely confidential.

4) Cathy English is asking for curricular proposals to be received by the CELS Curriculum Committee on or before Friday January 29, if you want those changes to go through Faculty Senate for approval for next academic year. Time is of the essence due to heavy committee loads due to the revamp of General Education.

**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 1:55pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary