

Minutes of the November 4, 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 9:00 am at the CBL 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Preisser, and Sun; Associate Deans, Thornber, and Veeger, Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Morreira, Palmer, Silvia, and Van Buren. Department Chair and Fastovsky, Associate Dean Sheely, Dean Kirby, were absent. Professor Boving represented GEO. Associate Dean Veeger presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Preisser and seconded by Opaluch to approve the minutes of October 21, 2016 and they were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Associate Dean Thornber:

1. THE NEASC Accreditation self-study is in full swing. The effort led by Matt Bodah involves several subcommittees working on individual standards required to be examined by NEASC. Drafts of self study documents will be furnished to deans in the next several months as they become available. There will be a fall visit by external evaluators.
2. P&T reviews and annual reviews are underway. There are several folders available to be seen by faculty colleague evaluators 1 and 8 to 14 only. All tenure-track faculty are encouraged to participate in the initial process of evaluation of colleagues because only those *closest* to the field of the one being evaluated are in the best position to provide a quality evaluation. Even if an colleague evaluator does not choose to participate in evaluations per AAUP contract provisions, a formal abstention form must be uploaded as part of the process. All pages of the IDEA Surveys should be uploaded into the proper folder, not just the first page. Although each department has a differing culture as to whether lecturers and non-tenure track department members can add to the comments, only tenure-track faculty may vote on P&T matters. Information about P&T process may be found on the Provost's website here: http://web.uri.edu/provost/files/General_Instructions_on_the_Online_Faculty_Review_Process.pdf
3. National rankings of colleges and universities by *Forbes*, *US News and World Report* and others, albeit flawed, are being used by families to make choices about where to apply. Can URI be brought up in such rankings?
4. The new hire assistant professors will necessarily mean a reduction of per-course instructors across campus, thus attention needs to be paid to delivery of the curriculum with existing faculty resources.

Associate Dean Veeger:

1. There is still a need for more J-term course offerings on campus. Interested faculty are asked to contact their department chairs if interested in developing new courses or adapting existing ones *if appropriate*.
2. There is a renewed effort to engage in Academic Program Review. The Political Science Department in A&S have undergone a recent review and are willing to share their materials with other departments & programs.

Meredith Silvia:

1. Searches for the positions of Unit III Coordinator and Unit III part-time fiscal clerk are underway.
2. For state classified positions per union contract there is a special procedure for filling vacancies that includes the possibility of lateral transfers from other units without direct interview of candidates.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

Department Chair Gold suggested that at least token honoraria be offered to external reviewers called in to participate in program evaluation efforts. To get best people it shows good form as these very good people are busy. There was discussion about this and Associate Dean Veeger will be looking into it for consideration as a general policy.

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50am.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary