

Minutes of the February 24, 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 CBLS 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs, English, Fastovsky, Goldsmith, Gomez-Chiarri, Opaluch, Sun, and Thompson; Associate Deans Rhodes, Sheely and Veeger; and Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Morreira, Palmer, and Silvia. Department Chairs Gold and Mitkowski were absent, as were Dean Kirby and *ex officio* member Van Buren; Associate Dean Rhodes presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Opaluch and seconded by English to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016 and they were unanimously approved..*

Announcements:

Associate Dean Rhodes:

- 1) The Spring CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2016 in CBLS 100.
 - Department Chairs acting in their capacity as the nominating committee for CELS Elections are asked to review the CELS Committees for members with terms expiring an for unfilled seats and consider nominees. Most committee members with expiring terms are eligible for reelection. <http://web.uri.edu/celsgov/committees/>
 - The agenda is under development. Committee chairs are asked to provide a report on their committee activities.
- 2) The URI-South County Habitat for Humanity Breakfast will be held at 8:30am on Thursday March 3 in the Memorial Ballroom. Associate Dean Rhodes has tickets for the event and encourages members of the CELS Community to join him at the CELS table. Contact Associate Dean Rhodes if you are interested.
- 3) Distinguished International Scholar, Dr. James Mittra will be visiting CELS from April 24-April 30, 2016 for the purposes of exploring future relationships between URI and the Inno-gen Institute in the area of innovation in the life sciences and promoting a global bioeconomy.

Other Announcements:

- 1) Associate Dean Veeger announced that the CELS commencement is scheduled for Saturday May 21 at 5:30pm in the Ryan Center. This is a break from past practices and should help with providing a nicer experience for the graduates and their families.
- 2) Chairperson Gomez-Chiarri announced that searches are underway to fill several faculty positions in the cross-disciplinary areas of 'big data' and computational biomodeling. Announcements about candidate visits will be forthcoming.
- 3) Chairperson English said that In order to get curriculum proposals through the full approval process this academic year, the CELS Curriculum Committee needs the proposals soon. Proposals that need the approval of the Graduate School need to be submitted to CELS by Friday February 26. Proposals that need approval of the CAC need to be submitted by Friday March 18th. Proposals can be submitted to CELS after Friday March 18th, but will not make it through the full university approval this year.

College business matters:

1) There was a discussion of the procedures for annual review of lecturers. A major issue was evaluation criteria by which teaching would be evaluated. Annual class visits are prescribed. Associate Dean Veeger said that she would be looking for usable rubric templates for teaching evaluations for the departments to consider and these would be provided in the next 2 weeks. The link for the lecturer review instructions is as follows:

http://web.uri.edu/provost/files/Lecturer_General_Instructions_on_the_Online_Faculty_Review_Process.pdf

March 1, candidates submit dossiers;

April 1, faculty submit peer reviews;

May 1, chairs upload completed portfolio with their summary to CELS P&T sakai site.

2) The issue of scheduling of classrooms such as the Woodward Computer Lab 006 and the Woodward teaching lab 009 was discussed. A problem of double-scheduling has arisen. The new system will involve requests sent to and managed by Judith Palmer. There will be a new system of scheduling in which recurring classes from year-to-year will have priority scheduling, with prior year's schedules pre-populated into the semester's scheduling calendars so as to indicate that the slots are already taken.

3) Associate Dean Rhodes is seeking input on a proposal to create a unified CELS vehicle cost center to better manage vehicle usage throughout the college. At present there is a wide variety of vehicles under the responsibility of CELS, but many are rather old and worn out, while others are old (pre-1999) but with very low mileages. He is seeking input from departments on what a CELS 'motor pool' would look like ideally in terms of vehicle composition (e.g. cars, small pickups, 4x4 Crew cab and the like). Chairs are asked to discuss with faculty in their departments.

4) Associate Dean Sheely announced that an effort to invigorate the cooperative relationship between the volunteer Master Gardeners and the CELS Extension programming is now underway as part of the larger strategic planning and positioning effort of RI Cooperative Extension.

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