

Minutes of the April 6, 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, Fastovsky, Gold, Goldsmith, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Sun, and Thompson; Associate Deans Sheely and Veeger; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Morreira, Palmer, Silvia and Van Buren. Associate Dean Rhodes was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Fastovsky and seconded by Opaluch to approve the minutes of February 24, 2016 and they were unanimously approved..*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) The Spring CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2016 in CBL 100.
- 2) Distinguished Scholar Dr. Bobbie Shay Lee of the Center for Transparency will be visiting URI and CELS discussing issues of governmental transparency as related to environmental and other policies.
- 3) There is a growing effort on campus to further promote "Living-Learning Communities." There will be a university-wide meeting on this topic on August 16, 2016 with a goal to increase participation by the various colleges.
- 4) CELS has developed a "New Faculty Hire" webpage so all can get to know the new faculty: <http://web.uri.edu/celsnews/cels-announces-new-faculty-hires/>
- 5) The new General Education Program is moving forward. Faculty and staff advising students are advised that there are reports that in some cases, it may be advantageous to some students admitted prior to Fall 2015 to avail themselves of the new Gen Ed program to fulfill their GenEd requirements depending upon how far the student has come along in fulfilling the old program requirements. Each student should be treated on a case by case basis and the catalogs for the year of admission of the student as well as the more recent catalogs should be consulted to aid the student in making their decision.

Other Announcements:

- 1) Associate Dean Veeger asked that all advising sheets for the departments be reviewed in light of the new General Education program. Old sheets will remain active as students within the pipeline with admissions from previous years fulfill their requirements based on the catalog published during their year of admission. If there is conflict between Advising Sheets and the Catalog, the catalog language prevails. Approved courses in the new GenEd Program are being added as they are approved and can be checked periodically on the Faculty Senate website here: http://web.uri.edu/facsen/files/ALL_APPROVE_GEC.xls
- 2) Associate Dean Veeger announced that full reviews of lecturers applying for promotion is due May 1; the annual review of all lecturers, including classroom assessments was due April 1. Departments are asked to have their agreed upon procedures for required annual/periodic reviews of all faculty in their departments to be submitted by May 1. Dean Kirby added that when promotion packages are submitted, three or more letters of support aid the decision making process greatly. Decisions are difficult when there is little support information avail-

able. All faculty should be reminded that they are required to participate in the peer review process even if their participation is limited to a submission of a formal abstention statement.

3) Business Manager Silvia announced that lab fee charges are under review and may be increasing for the 2018 academic year. More information to follow. She also mentioned that an audit of all space allotted to CELS by the University is being audited for the purpose of the periodic recalculation of the institutional overhead rate for federal grants. CELS business officers will be speaking with faculty with assigned space. Additionally, there is a University-wide effort underway to reassess space allocations in light of the need to house the new neurosciences program.

4) Associate Dean Veeger reminded chairs that workload plans are due now and that faculty workloads must be cross-checked with the Class Schedules to assure accuracy.

5) Associate Dean Veeger also reminded chairs that during course scheduling, any courses slated to go into CELS-controlled classrooms & teaching labs must go through the CELS scheduling process coordinated by Judith Palmer. *Ken Sisson's office does not handle this.* Also, moving class times to unusual time periods, especially during "primetime" periods, can and will create "cascade effects" and a massive scheduling nightmare. Faculty should be careful about scheduling times even if they are in CELS-controlled classrooms.

College Elections:

Faculty Secretary Rice announced the need to find candidates to fill seats for URI Faculty Senate, URI Senate Committee and CELS Committees. Target Date for Electronic Balloting will be Tuesday April 12 so that we may meet the April 14 deadline for reporting of new Senators. Ballots will be sent out via the CELS listserver and collected by Judith Palmer. All offices requiring seats to be filled for the 2016-17 Academic year are as follows:

Faculty Senate:

Marion Goldsmith (BIO)

William Gordon (LAR)

Lenore Martin (CMB)

None of the incumbents are eligible for reelection, and the seat held by William Gordon is lost due to Senate reapportionment, so we will be electing only TWO senators for a full three year term and ALL departments are eligible to submit candidate names. Additionally Senator Uchida from ENRE will be going on sabbatical next year, so a replacement Senator must be elected to fill the remaining one year of his term. Again nominations are eligible from all departments.

URI Committee on Information Technologies, Infrastructure, Computing, Communications, and Networking:

Ingrid Lofgren (NFS) must relinquish her seat due to department transfer to Heath College. A nominee is needed to fill a one year appointment to 2017

URI Curricular Affairs Committee:

Cathy English (NFS) must relinquish her seat due to department transfer to Heath College. A nominee is needed to fill a one year appointment to 2017

CELS Faculty Secretary:

Michael Rice (FAVS). All departments are eligible to submit nominations for the three year term.

CELS Curriculum Committee:

David Bidwell (MAF)

Katherine Petersson (FAVS)

Both incumbents are eligible for reelection, however only FAVS and MAF are eligible to submit candidates, so in practice, the election for this committee occurs at the department level if there is only one nominee from the department for the three year term.

CELS Research Committee:

Marta Gomez-Chiarri (FAVS)

Scott McWilliams (NRS)

Both incumbents are eligible for reelection. Eligible departments to provide nominees are: FAVS, GEO, NRS, BIO, and CMB.

CELS Extension Committee:

Alyson McCann (NRS)

The incumbent is eligible for reelection. Eligible departments to submit nominees are: NRS, FAVS, BIO, GEO, MAF, ENRE and CMB.

CELS Space Committee:

Richard Burroughs (MAF)

Corey Lang (ENRE)

Both incumbents are eligible. Departments eligible to submit nominees are MAF, ENRE, and CMB.

CELS Commencement Committee:

Tony Mallilo (FAVS)

The incumbent is eligible for reelection, and vacant 2018 seat also is also available, so we will be filling two seats on this committee. Departments eligible to submit nominees are: FAVS, PLS, GEO, BIO, MAF, CMB and NRS.

CELS Bylaws Committee:

Christopher Lane (BIO)

The incumbent is eligible for reelection for another 3 year term. Eligible departments to submit nominees are: BIO, PLS, GEO, CMB, ENRE, and NRS.

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 2:15pm*

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary