

Minutes of the February 22, 2017 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 1:30 pm at the CBL5 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Fastovsky, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, and Sun; Associate Deans, Sheely, Thornber, and Veeger; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia, and Van Buren. Department Chairs Dalton, Opaluch, and Preisser, and *ex-officio* member Morreira, were absent. Dean Kirby presided. Prof Bidwell represented MAF, Prof Norris represented BIO and Prof E. Uchida represented ENRE.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Fastovsky and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve the minutes of February 8, 2017 as amended and they were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. As mentioned at the prior Executive Council, there is a continued interest in maintaining consistency with URI's strategic communications policies, including institutional branding. Make sure any documents sent out for media, mass emails to constituents, etc, comply with the University branding policies. Refer to the URI Branding and Visual Standards Guide (<http://www.advance.uri.edu/visualstandardsguide/resources/StyleGuide-sm.pdf>) to guide communications design.
2. The Governor's RI Promise Grants program for students will be in the FY2018 budget. Students will need to have 60 credits and be in good standing before junior year to receive funds. This puts on pressure to assure that students are adequately advised, be taking adequate course loads and maintaining grades C or above. This also puts considerable pressure on advising of freshman & sophomore students. Departments and programs need to be cognizant of this need and make appropriate plans.
3. The Provost's office is anxious about the pace of implementation of new Gen-Ed courses. Courses need to be submitted before the March CAC meeting if the course is to be approved for Fall offering. This is because the April faculty Senate meeting scheduled for April 20 is normally the last meeting of the year in which regular business, including approval of the CAC reports is done. According to Faculty Secretary and CELS Senator Rice, if there are CELS courses in the pipeline, it may be possible for a Senator to make a motion under New Business in the March meeting scheduled for March 23 to request that CAC continue their work in April so that they report their work at the May Senate meeting; a meeting that is traditionally the ceremonial meeting for new senators to be seated and little business is done.
4. There has been further discussions by the Provost's Office about initiating workload statements and Faculty Effort Analysis more generally around the University and building workload explicitly in letters of hire for new faculty. Discussions are ongoing with the Faculty Senate and AAUP Executive Committees.
5. There was discussion about convening an initial meeting of a potential "Neuroscience Research Cluster" to assess resources and discuss means for collaboration in this area.

Judith Palmer

1. Instructors using conference rooms in CELS buildings that are not part of the University's managed classroom inventory should notify Judith Palmer of their intent to avoid double booking situations during finals week.

Keri Van Buren

1. She requests of CELS faculty and staff, a list of bullet points about current projects and activities that are exciting for her use with discussions with potential donors or new students.

Meredith Silvia

1. The new policy from the URI Equipment Inventory Office is that there will be no longer a need to tag and maintain equipment inventories...with disposal notification on items less than \$5000 in value. They will still be issuing "Property of URI" stickers for equipment of lower value.

Associate Dean Thornber

1. Final version budget request to the Provost will be shared with faculty soon. Budget request goes to Provost on March 1st.

Associate Dean Veeger

1. There is an initiative to analyze the use of TAs across campus. There is a concern about a possible imbalance of distributions in relationship to teaching needs. Associate Dean Veeger will be looking into TA needs in courses within the college.
2. Giselle Biello will be serving as interim coordinator of the Coastal Fellows Program until such time as a new full-time coordinator is found.

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 2:10pm.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary