

Minutes of the July 11, 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 12:30 pm at the CBL 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Opaluch, Preisser, and Savage; Associate Deans, Sheely, Thornber, and Veeger; and *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia, and Van Buren; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Department Chair Sun; and *ex officio* member Morreira were absent; Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of the Minutes: 1) *It was moved by Opaluch and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve of the April 5, 2017 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously;* 2) *It was moved by Opaluch and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve of the May 31, 2017 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously;*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) Dean Kirby awarded Longevity of Service certificates and gifts to three CELS staff members who shared in lunch with the Executive Council:
 - a) Karen Frost 15 years of service
 - b) Colleen Blackwood 25 years of service
 - c) Linda Vetvois 30 years of service
- 2) At the Dean's Council, Provost Dehayes mentioned that about 3,300 new students have registered & about 1000 additional students are expected to register in the next month or so, making this one of the biggest entering freshman classes ever.
- 3) The state budget has not been approved by the General Assembly. There will be slowing of a few capital projects, but there will be no major affect on general operations of the university in the short term.
- 3) There is about a \$2 million shortfall in the URI budget compared to the request (despite the budget not being passed). Number of faculty hires around the university has slowed dramatically from the past couple of years. CELS is in fairly good shape in comparison to no hires in several other colleges. But there is need to limit use of per-course instructors and make sure that workloads are fully optimized.
- 4) The Provost provided a "snapshot" of current Gen-Ed enrollments (See Appendix 1). There is a severe shortage of G & D (Grand Challenge & Integrative) courses being offered. Faculty are encouraged to look at existing courses that do have "Integrative & Applied" characteristics for possible inclusion into Gen-Ed. Many courses in CELS do fit the bill, but all that is needed to be done is that they need to be put trough the approval process.
- 5) The Provost's Office will be developing a unified travel policy for all new faculty hires, and the approval process will be directly through the Provost's Office, not HR.
- 6) New Faculty startup fund policies are different n each of the colleges. CELS is attempting to maintain a high degree of flexibility in using funds to positively encourage greater research productivity without setting fixed 'return on investment' expectations.
- 7) Dania Branford Calvo will be leaving the International Programs Office. There will be some slight restructuring of the Global Leadership Programs as a replacement for Dania

is being contemplated. Dean Anthony Rowell from the University of Houston has come on board as Dean of Education and Jeannette Riley from U-Mass-Dartmouth has come on board as Dean of A&S.

8) Carol Thornbur has been appointed as full time Associate Dean within CELS.

Congratulations were offered by all.

9) The CELS community needs to be more proactive in nominating our talented faculty and staff for university-wide awards. We have very good people.

Kari Van Buren:

1) CELS has reached its goal of \$525,000 for the last fiscal year.

Meredith Silvia:

1) Departmental budgets are being uploaded into Sakai. They were approved by the Dean with only minimal adjustments from the original submitted requests.

Judith Palmer:

1) Make sure that if classes are listed on e-campus in a particular room and that room is a CELS classroom, then that room also needs to be reserved through the CELS Room Reservation System. All faculty are asked to cooperate to avoid great confusion in the first days of class.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Chairperson Preisser mentioned the desire for CELS to award a college-wide service award in addition to the Research, Teaching, Extension and Staff Excellence Awards bestowed annually. It was suggested that Chairperson Preisser work with the Bylaws and Review Committee to propose an amendment to the CELS Bylaws at the December Faculty & Staff Meeting to include such an award so that it can be awarded next May.

Adjournment: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 1:55pm

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary

Appendix 1

Fall 2017 General Education Review Post-Orientation

Outcome	Description	# Sections	Total # Seats	# Enrolled as of 7.31.17	'Open' Seats	% Filled
A1	Understand and apply the tools and methods of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines	27	13792	9954	3936	72%
A2	Understand theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences	103	6654	3872	992	85%
A3	Understand the context and significance of the humanities, arts, and culture	238	8236	5872	2472	71%
A4	Understand the context and significance of arts and design	53	3721	2832	490	75%
B1	Write effective and precise texts that reflect their communication purposes and address varied audiences	133	5375	3786	589	70%
B2	Communicate effectively in writing, including oral presentations, and actively participating in group work	223	2882	1578	904	55%
B3	Apply the basic research methods, statistical, or computational strategies to problem solving	275	7052	5407	1643	77%
B4	Develop an engagement in the knowledge and responsibilities	59	5945	4152	1797	70%
C1	Develop an engagement in the knowledge and responsibilities	47	2205	1552	251	89%
C2	Develop an engagement in the global responsibilities	73	3902	4243	1658	72%
C3	Develop an engagement in the diversity and inclusion responsibilities	63	2572	1313	658	74%
E	Global Challenge	26	959	852	248	88%
D	Integrate and apply skills and abilities developed in each of the above areas	56	1034	702	242	77%

Notes:
 1. Analyze data for 2017-2018 academic year.
 2. Outcomes that have not been reviewed are marked as "Not Reviewed" in the above table.
 3. Some outcomes have not been reviewed but are marked as "Not Reviewed" in the above table.
 4. A correction for 2016-2017 data was made for the first row (A1) to the year of review.