

## Minutes of the December 3, 2018 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 10:15 am at the CBLS 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gomez-Chiarri, Gold, Savage, Preisser, Sun and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sheely, Thornber and Veeger; *ex-officio* members Morreira, Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Department Chair Mitkowski was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of the Minutes:** *A motion was made by Preisser and seconded by Morreira to approve the October 22, 2018 Minutes of the Executive Council. The slightly amended minutes (typos only) were approved unanimously.*

### Announcements:

#### **Dean Kirby:**

- 1) The Provost's Office and the Council of Deans are working on a DRAFT policy statement on Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary/Transdisciplinary work at URI. A copy of the draft statement is presented in Appendix 1. Members of the CELS Faculty engaged in such work or courses are encouraged to provide comment to the dean's office so that they can be forwarded to the working group.
- 2) Budget Planning Issues. Now that the three-year major faculty hire initiative is over, future faculty hires will be prioritized by the Provost's Office based upon strategic need. Four faculty line replacements are anticipated for CELS in the next fiscal year. CMB is requesting 3 additional faculty hires via a special initiative via specially designated general revenue funds. There may be a possibility of additional "Cluster Hires" based upon initiatives of the Provost's Office based upon faculty input at the January Academic Summit hosted by the Joint Committee on Academic Planning (JCAP).
- 3) Information about graduate and undergraduate enrollment were released. A summary of enrollment data released by the Provost are presented in Appendix 2. Note that the CELS Program in Medical Laboratory Technology is transitioning to being a Professional Degree Program, so enrollment numbers are unusually low. Several CELS grad programs are phasing out in favor of the umbrella Biological and Environmental Sciences Program. Undergraduate enrollments remain healthy.
- 4) The Graduate School is reevaluating policies about enrollment. Limiting the number of credits required after advancement to candidacy is under study. There may be implications to the fee structuring, costs to grants and eligibility for TA-ships and GA-ships. The one-credit continuing enrollment for final semester thesis preparation is back.
- 5) Retention of non-traditional and minority students remains problematic, with grades in introductory math courses such as MTH 103 & MTH111 as most indicative of those most at risk of dropping out. Need to focus on this key problem. Can the CELS Professional Advisors help? Is there a bigger problem by students with much greater problem of finances, work and juggling extramural pressures of everyday life?

***Associate Dean Veeger:***

- 1) Time is at hand for course scheduling for the Fall 2019 semester. Make sure that CELS-controlled classroom assignments are not only listed by Ken Sisson, but also properly scheduled through the CELS room scheduler. We wish to avoid the problem of double booking of space.
- 2) There is a campus-wide space crunch for classrooms of intermediate size. This issue should subside when the new engineering building comes online next Fall.
- 3) Requests for TAs will be fulfilled based strictly on teaching needs. Contact Associate Dean Veeger about any unmet needs for TA help. We will be maintaining a list of unmet needs to bring forth to the Provost in the request for greater TA funding.

***Associate Dean Sheely:***

- 1) Those with NIFA funding should be mindful of reporting deadlines through the NIFA reporting portal.

***Meredith Curfman:***

- 1) There will be a mental health training early in January so there will be few staff available for two morning early in the new year
- 2) The URI Property Office is on a campaign to locate 'missing' items in inventory. They will be visiting offices & labs.

***Warren Wilson:***

- 1) Announced that he will be visiting department chairs about fundraising needs of the department and discuss how the URI Foundation can help out.

**Old Business:**

There was no Old Business.

**New Business:**

There was no New Business.

**Adjournment:** *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 10:55am*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary

## APPENDIX 1

### Draft Statement on Multidisciplinary/Interdisciplinary/Transdisciplinary Work

*Draft*

#### Statement on MULTIDISCIPLINARY/INTERDISCIPLINARY/TRANSDISCIPLINARY (M/I/T) work at URI

*The University of Rhode Island supports multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary teaching and research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary work preserve traditional disciplinary boundaries while bringing different perspectives to bear on a problem or issue. Interdisciplinary work creates new approaches, in both theory and method, at the intersection of traditional disciplines.*

**There are many ways that colleges and department may promote M/I/T work, including:**

**Appointments:** Departments and colleges are encouraged to request joint appointments when appropriate. Typically, faculty recruited for joint appointments are appointed in one department (or college) as a promotion and tenure home, but have defined duties, responsibilities, and rights in one or more other units (colleges, departments, schools, programs, centers, institutes, etc.). Depending on need, joint appointments may be either limited or unlimited. The terms and conditions of joint appointments should be clearly defined and, particularly in the case of new hires, approved by the Provost's Office. In some cases, joint appointments may require a budget commitment from both units, although some limited joint appointments may simply allow work done in one unit to count toward workload commitments in another. In addition to faculty positions, department and colleges are encouraged to consider the cross-unit use of graduate teaching assistants. Such appointments could help build the graduate program in one unit while meeting the teaching or research needs in another.

**Programs and Courses:** Many majors, minors, and graduate programs at the University already require course work in more than one unit. These may be multidisciplinary (e.g. a thematic major or minor that requires coursework from several departments) or interdisciplinary (e.g. a program with entirely new integrative courses with unique course codes) or a combination of the two (e.g. a program that requires a core of integrative courses as well as multidisciplinary coursework). Because many contemporary issues require M/I/T work, the University encourages the establishments of new M/I/T programs. At the course-level, cross-listing is encouraged when a course spans more than one discipline.

**Research:** The University houses several M/I/T centers and institutes that focus on either specific (e.g. underwater vehicles) or broad (e.g. humanities) research areas. Faculty and students should become familiar with these centers and institutes and, when appropriate, seek research collaborators through these entities. When new areas emerge faculty should consider developing new centers and institutes through procedures found in the University Manual. Entities that cross department and college boundaries are particularly encouraged. Beyond established entities, the Research Office is available to work with multidisciplinary teams and identify sources of funding for M/I research.

*Draft*

Most faculty and administrators recognize the importance of M/I/T work, but sometimes cite institutional barriers to its accomplishment. At times, the barriers may be more perceived than real but the guidelines below address some of these issues.

**Workload credit:** Under both the University Manual and collective bargaining agreement between the Council for Postsecondary Education and URI Chapter of the American Association of University Professors workload assignments are made by department chairs and approved by college deans. In non-departmentalized colleges, deans make workload assignments usually with the help of associate deans, area coordinators, etc. When making workload assignments, chairs should be aware that University policy is to count teaching effort in the department that staffs or funds the course. Hence, a chair need not be concerned that allowing a faculty member to teach in another department will lessen the recorded teaching effort of the home department. Faculty should be aware that teaching outside of their home departments is fully recognized by the administration as part of normal teaching load. When courses are co-taught, typically credit is divided between faculty. For example, a course co-taught by two faculty will count as one-half course per faculty member. Chairs and deans, however, may give full course credit to each faculty member when:

- The course is large enough to justify such commitment of resources
- The nature of course requires the full participation of each instructor for the duration of the course
- A faculty member receiving full credit has, in fact, participated in the entire course.

Chairs and deans are urged to be strategic and selective in the allocation of team teaching efforts to certain courses with full credit to multiple instructors.

For funded research projects, relative effort is identified on the Internal Approval for Proposal Transmittal form. Overhead funds are shared according to the distribution indicated on the Facilities and Administrative Revenue form. For non-funded projects, faculty should provide a statement of relative commitment to a project.

**Recognition:** At the Provost-level, the administration recognizes the importance of M/I/T work and considers it a positive attribute in a faculty member's application for promotion and tenure. Although each college and department will have its own disciplinary norms—which are sometimes influenced by program accreditation requirements—the administration encourages colleges and departments to view M/I/T work favorably in annual review and promotion and tenure recommendations. This may mean that faculty are encouraged to do (or at least not discouraged from doing) teaching, research, and publishing outside of their home disciplines and are encouraged to engage with scholars from other fields. This information could be relayed in appointment letters. When possible, M/I/T work should also be supported through faculty development fund and other sources of funding.

**Communication:** Perhaps above all else it is important to communicate the importance of M/I/T work, publicize and celebrate successes in M/I/T work, and encourage its further development.

## APPENDIX 2 CELS ENROLLMENT DATA

Five Year Grad Enrollment							
Program	Total Enrolled					5-Year Average	
<b>College of Engineering</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		
Chemical Engineering	25	25	28	27	26		26
Civil & Environmental Engineering	34	31	32	30	32		32
Electrical Engineering	51	53	44	46	59		51
Industrial Systems Engineering	12	9	7	7	5		8
Mechanical Engineering	56	47	39	51	51		49
Ocean Engineering	35	48	39	45	43		42
Systems Engineering	10	10	9	9	11		10
<b>Total College of Engineering</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>227</b>		<b>217</b>
<b>Col of the Environment &amp; Life Sciences</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		
Biological & Environmental Sciences	96	105	110	115	112		108
Biological Sciences	-	1	-	-	-		0
Cell & Molecular Biology	6	3	1	1	-		2
Masters of Env. Science Mgmt	41	44	39	39	46		42
GIS/RS/Comm Plan/Hydro Cert		6	4	6	4		4
Environmental Sciences	6	3	1	1	-		2
Env & Natural Res. Economics	29	26	24	20	19		24
Fisheries, Animal & Vet Science	1	1	-	-	-		0
Marine Affairs MMA	16	13	16	13	12		14
Marine Affairs PhD/(MAMA)	20	25	22	32	31		26
Medical Laboratory	46	45	44	36			38
<b>Total CELS</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>242</b>		<b>260</b>
<b>College of Health Sciences</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>		
Human Development	55	57	55	56	59		56
Speech Language Pathology	50	46	44	39	46		45
Kinesiology	16	15	13	13	15		14
Dietetics (online)		24	58	70	77		46
Nutrition and Food Sciences	21	21	15	14	12		17
Psychology	111	106	86	74	72		90
Doctor of Physical Therapy	93	91	91	85	81		88
<b>Total College of Health Sciences</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>382</b>		<b>356</b>

## CELS Undergraduate Enrollment

College	Major Code	Description	F2000	F2005	F2010	F2011	F2012	F2013	F2014	F2015	F2016	F2017	F2018	
CELS	EL_AFTC_BS	Aquaculture & Fishery Tech - BS	56	62	51	42	42	39	37	40	47	44	41	
	EL_ANSC_BS	Animal Sci & Technology - BS	145	186	257	276	293	318	310	323	349	337	369	#13
	EL_BIO_BA	Biology - BA	123	160	197	190	201	141	164	175	158	180	188	
	EL_BSC_BS	Biological Sciences - BS	206	274	373	438	433	475	400	366	294	335	370	#6
	EL_CLSC_BS	Medical Lab Science - BS	22	70	91	143	138	143	129	123	149	139	131	
	EL_CMBI_BS	Cell & Molecular Biology - BS					2	20	89	159	250	254	240	
	EL_MBIO_BS	Marine Biology - BS	228	208	209	241	261	231	237	229	214	210	204	
	EL_MICR_BS	Microbiology - BS	58	74	66	73	85	59	36	15	3	0	0	
	EL_WCB_BS	Wildlife Conservation Biol - BS	93	96	139	135	111	108	110	125	158	163	162	
	EL_CMPM_BS	Coastal Marine Policy Mgt - BS		53	57	64	66	56	69	71	67	50	56	
	EL_CMPS_BA	Coastal Marine Policy Std - BA		22	46	44	48	49	39	30	24	32	34	
	EL_MAFF_BA	Marine Affairs - BA	41	5	2	2	2	2	1			0	0	
	EL_MAFF_BS	Marine Affairs - BS	29	2	2	2		2		*		0	0	
	EL_EEMG_BS	Environmental Econ & Mgt - BS	10	9	21	25	11	17	4	2			0	
	EL_RECM_BS	Resource Econ & Commerce - BS	7	5	21	18	7	4	1				0	
	EL_EHTM_BS	Envir Hort & Turf Mgmt - BS	62	81	69	63	58	62	59	58	50	47	45	
	EL_PLSC_BS	Plant Science - BS		1				2					0	
	EL_ENRE_BS	Environ & Nat Res Econ - BS				14	50	80	90	100	99	86	90	
	EL_ESMG_BS	Environmental Sci & Mgmt - BS	65	57	85	104	94	100	113	118	119	111	95	
	EL_SAFS_BS	Sustainable Agric & Food - BS									6	12	15	
	EL_GEOS_BS	Geosciences	14	9	26	19	9	4	3	1			0	
	EL_GOCG_BS	Geology and Geolog Ocg - BS	32	18	39	36	48	61	66	73	61	39	41	
	EL_UDEC_BA	Undeclared CELS - BA	31	13	17	25	28	32	16	6	3	1	6	
	EL_UDEC_BS	Undeclared CELS - BS		11	8	5	20	20	20	33	18	27	18	
	EL_WEL_BOS	Waiting for Env&Life Sci - BS		19	19	1		1					0	
Undecided	UC_UDEC_BA	University College Undecl - BA	341	455	621	535	567	568	559	511	512	595	515	#7
	UC_UDEC_BS	University College Undecl - BS		20	36	26	40	24	33	48	49	29	9	
	AS_UDEC_BA	Undeclared A&S - BA	464	416	100	112	112	78	68	55	41	41	23	
	AS_UDEC_BS	Undeclared A&S - BS		37	40	40	25	18	15	9	8	0	0	
CEPS	XD_ACM_BIS	Applied Communications - BIS	19	8	5	1	1	3	2	3	1	0	4	
	EP_BIN_BIS	Business Institutions - BIS	60	60	51	37	43	45	38	31	31	23	23	
	EP_HSA_BIS	Health Svcs Administr - BIS	18	16	15	17	8	13	11	11	10	10	11	
	EP_HST_BIS	Human Studies - BIS	35	26	12	19	22	16	15	20	20	12	16	
	EP_UDC_BGS	Undeclared CCE - BGS	147	70	23	15	14	7	3	1	0	0	0	
	EP_UDC_BIS	Undeclared CCE - BIS						3	3	5	4	7	8	
	HS_ELED_BA	Elementary Education - BA	331	309	314	296	263	227	241	246	271	268	266	
	HS_ELED_BS	Elementary Education - BS		9	1			2	4	4	10	6	1	
	HS_SEDC_BA	Secondary Education - BA	226	262	314	279	242	205	184	189	217	204	174	
	HS_SEDC_BS	Secondary Education - BS		44	15	10	10	2	4	7	9	6	3	
	HS_WEE_BOA	Waiting for Elem Educ - BA	30	32	7	9	6	6	2	2	3	2	0	
	HS_WSE_BOA	Waiting for Sec Educ - BA	47	50	8	1	1			4	2	0	0	
	HS_WSE_BOS	Waiting for Sec Educ - BS		2	5	4			1		0	0	0	

Source: Oct 15 data through IR. Counts first and second majors  
[http://web.uri.edu/ir/reports-and-surveys/pr\\_majors/](http://web.uri.edu/ir/reports-and-surveys/pr_majors/)