

Minutes of the September 24, 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 CBL 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Savage, Preisser, Sun and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sheely, Thornber and Veeger; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. *Ex-officio* member Morreira was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Preisser and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve the September 10, 2018 Minutes of the Executive Council. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) Dean Kirby introduced Ellen Anderson of the URI Foundation, who in turn introduced Warren "Skip" Wilson who was beginning work at CELS as the College Advancement Officer. Skip was welcomed as a new *ex officio* member of the Executive Council.
- 2) A key topic at the council of Deans was the general topic of online education. Still at issue is finding appropriate models for implementation, costs, rigorous evaluation of proposals, appropriate professional compensation, enrollment limits, and how revenue sharing would work. Discussions are ongoing.
- 3) Classroom renovations and technology - The new engineering building will have large active learning classrooms, but not know yet how accessible those would be for general assignment. No new classroom buildings are expected to be built for a long time.
- 4) Dr. Gifty Ako-Adounvo joins URI from Ohio State University as the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives. Nancy Stricklin is now working for her.
- 5) There was a New Department Chair Forum aimed at educating new chairpersons about the various duties of the position. In preparation for the forum there was compiled for the first time a comprehensive list of duties normally carried out by chairpersons.
- 6) Strategic Planning for CELS: Departments are asked to look at old self-assessment documents for academic (instructional) and work through their representative on the Research Committee about formulating a college wide research plan.
- 7) Since 2012, 50 new faculty members have been hired in CELS. It is important to include the new members in the CELS Faculty in the process, because they will be living the results of planning for a longer period of time. The provost's new faculty initiative for hiring is now over. There is a move back to strategic reallocation, with all vacating faculty and lectureship lines reverting back to the provost for reallocation.
- 8) There will be a tight budget for the next few years, for each new position, CELS had to give funds back, so now we are feeling the pain (but also enjoying increased overhead returns from new faculty). Dean is cutting all portions of budget with the exception of student travel. He will be borrowing some money from 110 funds and recovering some indirect costs now from I-Cubed.

Associate Dean Veeger:

- 1) **Annual reviews:** There will be a new dossier coming up, but forms and folders will be the same. It is recommended that all under review assemble their dossier on their computer into same folders as those in the portfolio, and then add those materials to each folder as needed. *Everything* to be uploaded as pdf. Videos and other large files to be stored in other locations, links provided. Get newer version of Adobe Acrobat at the Help Desk. Bring your faculty ID card.
- 2) The new policy of CELS is that ALL requested changes to the CELS website requires an electronic Job Ticket so that work is better tracked.
- 3) A provost's audit of course fees has been done. Associate Dean Veeger will send a revised list of course fees to all department chairpersons.
- 4) Graduate Student employment - US students in their last semester are now allowed to be on one credit. The policy will be in place for one year, and it is now being evaluated by a committee. Additionally a reduced tuition fee for grad students that have passed comprehensive exams is in discussion.
- 5) IDEAs online - print as PDF the online information, still figuring out how to import directly into dossiers.
- 6) There is a growing issue of anonymous less-than-helpful comments by students in the IDEAS that are becoming part of the permanent record.
- 7) The Grad School is beginning implementation of a new online application system.

Associate Dean Thornber:

- 1) The Research Committee is actively meeting to formulate the Draft Research Strategic Plan for the College
- 2) **Eyewash in labs needs to be tested/cleaned out every week.** Some department chairs have agreed to fund some student help to visit labs to assure that eyewash stations are run at least once a week.
- 3) The refurbishing of CBL5 452 into grad student offices is now complete.

Meredith Curfman:

- 1) Jo Link will be retiring & a list of her duties is being compiled to aid in decision making as whether to replace her position or not.
- 2) The URI Property Office is on a campaign to locate 'missing' items in inventory. They will be visiting offices & labs.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business

Adjournment: *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 11:10am*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary