

Minutes of the January 24, 2019 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 2:30 pm at the CBL 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gomez-Chiarri, Gold, Mitkowski, Savage, Preisser, and Sun; Associate Deans, Sheely, Thornber and Veeger; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Department Chair Uchida was absent. Dean Kirby presided. Professor Opaluch represented ENRE.

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Gold and seconded by Gomez-Chiarri to approve the December 3, 2018 Minutes of the Executive Council. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) Position descriptions for new faculty are due soon in the Dean's office so they can be reviewed and presented to the Provost. There will be several faculty retirements from CELS in the upcoming year in which some heavy teaching areas will be affected. Replacement of retiring faculty is an important goal for the next year. Key courses affected are AVS101 and GEO100 that service hundreds of students.
- 2) The future of the International Development Minor was discussed with the Provost, and the indication is that this program is seen favorably. There may be a possibility of develop a new faculty line in MAF with partial responsibilities of teaching in support of the International Development minor. The minor is seen as important to CELS in that it internationalizes our Land Grant Extension mission and allows students to have a vehicle to better engage with the CELS-based Peace Corps Prep program and other international development programming
- 3) The CELS Strategic Plan is being reviewed. This plan is primarily and overwhelmingly driven by work by the elected CELS faculty committees. The Draft Strategic Plan will be presented at an upcoming general meeting of the college.
- 4) The Graduate School is still reevaluating policies about enrollment, under consideration are reduced tuition fees once oral examinations are successfully completed. Major professors are encouraged to keep track of the progress of each of their grad students.

Associate Dean Veeger:

- 1) Workload planning for the 2019-20 academic year is coming up soon. Faculty can expect to log in to their workload planning materials on the CELS website soon.
- 2) There is new language in the AAUP contract about workload that brings the entire university more in line with standard CELS workload guidelines.
- 3) Letters of hire for many new faculty have specified workload percentages. Department chairs are encouraged to look at the letters of hire as part of the workload planning review process.

- 4) Policy for TA assignments across campus are becoming more like CELS, with course teaching needs taking primary consideration for assignment to individual faculty.
- 5) As the university is becoming more efficient in delivery of many support courses, they have become fewer in number and there is less choice for students in picking times. Scheduling of CELS majors courses in conflict with required CHM, PHY or other support courses is becoming more important as we wish to get students graduated out in the nominal four years.
- 6) Classroom space is still at a premium until the engineering building comes on-line in July. Faculty are asked to refrain from scheduling MWF classes at times other than the standard 50-minute time slots so that dead time in classrooms is avoided.

Associate Dean Thornber:

- 1) Those faculty members with Hatch and SL funding are reminded that reports are due.

Associate Dean Sheely:

- 1) The next NIFA Plan of Work is in preparation.
- 2) Faculty are asked to submit a plan for farm use for the next calendar year. This will insure timely and appropriate preparations are made.

Meredith Silvia:

- 1) Lisa Tremblay is leaving CELS for a new position across campus in Accounts Payable. The College wishes her well in her new position and thanks her for years of dedicated service to the college.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

There was no New Business.

Adjournment: *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 3:05pm*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary