

## Minutes of the November 20, 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 12:00 pm at the CBLS 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Chandlee, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Roberts, Savage, and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, Sheely, and Thornber; *ex-officio* members Palmer and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. *Ex-officio* member Silvia was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of the Minutes:** *A motion was made by Gold and seconded by Roberts to approve the November 6, 2019 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

### Announcements:

#### ***Dean Kirby:***

- 1) Dean Kirby announced that there may be emerging opportunities for CELS Faculty and Staff with the Ocean Exploration Institute <https://today.uri.edu/news/noaa-announces-new-94-million-ocean-exploration-institute-led-by-university-of-rhode-island/> Free or reduced rate ship time is part of this initiative, as is possible grad student support. Particular opportunities may exist in the areas ocean policy and management, as well as in marine economics. The provost will be holding a meeting with Robert Ballard in December aimed at discussing pathways toward greater university-wide participation in the effort.
- 2) Periodic faculty performance reviews at the department level are required to be uploaded into Interfolio by December 1 (see: <https://web.uri.edu/provost/promotion-and-tenure/> ).
- 3) There will be a special meeting of CELS Department Chairs at noon on December 19 to review Promotion & Tenure, and Continuing Annual Review packages to inform the dean's letter to the provost.
- 4) Dean Kirby is requesting that departments submit descriptions for new faculty hire positions before January 7.<sup>(See note 1)</sup> Any new faculty hires are limited, so if there is not a faculty retirement, chairs should be judicious in submitting requests. However also be prepared for the future. There are some discussions about a new faculty hire initiative. Fortune favors the well prepared.
- 5) There has been considerable interest in RI about agricultural production of industrial hemp. Note that URI is precluded from engaging in marijuana research (or any hemp with high THC levels) due to possible loss of federal grants and subsidies.

#### ***Associate Dean Thornber:***

- 1) The Graduate School is now interested in compiling a master list of graduate faculty. They are asking the colleges and departments to assist by verifying their records and aid in correcting any incorrect listings. Department chairs are asked to review their department lists and report back to Associate Dean Thornber within the next week.

#### ***Associate Dean Sartini:***

- 1) There is a major initiative underway to evaluate and possibly revamp the Freshman Seminar (URI 101) courses. The *ad hoc* committee report will be posted separately as (Supplement 1) of these minutes on the CELS Executive Council website.

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1 Dean Kirby subsequently extended the date for new faculty positions to be received by his office to January 27.

- 2) Gerard Holder, the Associate Director of Affirmative Action will be coming to the December 11 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff meeting to discuss Affirmative Action related matters.
- 3) There is a growing concern by Michelle-Fontes Barros and Associate Dean Sartini about the status of the mental health of many of our undergrad and grad students. There was discussion about inviting Jacqui Tisdale, the Assistant Director of Outreach & Intervention from the Office of Student Life to a future meeting of the CELS Faculty and Professional Staff during the spring semester.
- 4) Data of graduate enrollments was released by the provost's office. These data will be posted separately as (Supplement 2) of these minutes on the CELS Executive Council website.

***Associate Dean Sheely:***

- 1) The Farm Use Committee (including Chairs Gomez-Chiarri and Mitkowski) have been meeting to refine farm usage policies. Farm usage policies at other New England Land Grant universities are being used as possible models for adoption and/or modification and adoption.

***Faculty Secretary Rice:***

- 1) The agenda for the December 11 CELS Faculty and Professional Staff meeting is now being developed. Contact Prof. Rice for any items to be added.

**Old Business:**

There was no Old Business.

**New Business:**

There was no New Business.

**Adjournment:** *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 12:50 pm*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary