

Minutes of the February 21, 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, Sun and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sheely, and Veeger; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Department Chair Preisser, and Associate Dean Thornber were absent. Dean Kirby presided. Professor Irvine represented BIO.

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Gold and seconded by Uchida to approve the January 24, 2019 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) The FY 2019-20 budget as it has been presented by the Governor's Office to the General Assembly. An overall fiscal strategy will be to focus on admitting and retaining out of state students.
- 2) The University is evaluating new information database software Faculty180 by Interfolio (<https://www.interfolio.com/products/faculty180/>), a cloud-based system primarily for P&T dossier management, but it will have the capability of generating CVs, activity reports, maintaining a publications database and more. It may be useful for chairs in the translating of material from faculty CVs into proper format for electronic P&T review. Laura Beauvais of the Provost's office is taking the lead in the study of its usefulness for URI. Faculty will be contacted about assisting in the product evaluation and make recommendations about whether or not to purchase.
- 3) The kickoff for a new URI Capital Campaign begins on April 25, billed as "A Day of Giving"
- 4) There is \$1.8 million in the proposed governor's budget for URI (FY 2020) for funding of the development of online programs. Prof. Art Gold of NRS is developing one of the first online programs for a MESM certificate program.
- 5) Dean Kirby has recently returned from Indonesia where he had been discussing the possibility of two-year dual degree graduate programs with the Agricultural University of Bogor and other Indonesian Universities. There appears to be enthusiasm for the idea by Indonesian universities.

Associate Dean Veeger:

- 1) In response to the effort to focus on increasing enrollment yields of accepted out of state students, there is an initiative underway to revamp Welcome Day. Departments will be contacted about scheduling faculty & staff participation.
- 2) There is a new effort in the college to better use the social media platforms for highlighting student activities. Pictures of students being engaged in exciting activities are welcome to be sent to the dean's office.

Judith Palmer:

- 1) The next college-wide faculty and staff meeting will be held on Wednesday February 27 in CBLS 100. The main agenda item will be the final discussion of a college-wide strategic plan.

Skip Wilson:

- 1) The URI Foundation is seeking nominees for this years Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA).

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

There was no New Business.

Adjournment: *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 2:55 pm*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary