

Minutes of the March 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 CBLS 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Dalton, Gomez-Chiarri, Gold, Mitkowski, Preisser, and Uchida; Associate Deans, Thornber and Veeger; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Department Chairs Savage and Sun, and Associate Dean Sheely were absent. Dean Kirby presided. Professor Chandlee represented CMB and Professor Pradhanang represented GEO

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Mitkowski and seconded by Preisser to approve the February 21, 2019 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) College Budget Meetings with the Provost are underway. The CELS Meeting is scheduled for April 3 – CELS is giving back 8 positions in retirements, etc. and requesting 7 new replacements.
- 2) An Internal Payroll Audit is underway- here will be a tightening up of SR-1 and IP-1 procedures, making sure they are submitted and approved prior to start of work. Background checks on new hires are being required.
- 3) The Graduate Faculty Summit is scheduled for next Saturday.
- 4) Yield and retention - still needs for improvement, watch for failure rates in intro courses, and keep an eye out for weaker students earlier in the semester for earlier intervention. Issues remain with first and second year graduate student retention (is this for students not receiving funding?).
- 5) Got the names of CELS student admits from Associate Provost Libutti, For out of state recruits, Ann Veeger is arranging a phonathon next week with student ambassadors to boost numbers of students enrolling.
- 6) The CELS Strategic Plan is nearing completion - final edits in, final copy will be sent soon and posted on the CELS Faculty Governance website
- 7) The University is continuing to evaluate new information database software Faculty180 by Interfolio (<https://www.interfolio.com/products/faculty180/>). Associate Dean Veeger has been the CELS representative at meetings of the evaluation committee.

Associate Dean Veeger:

- 1) Efforts to post student action photos on the website have attracted some attention and increased site visits.
- 2) Welcome Days are scheduled for 3 weekends in April. Students should be encouraged to engage as tour guides to farms, labs and other facilities.
- 3) It is award nomination season now at URI and CELS. Be sure to nominate deserving candidates.
- 4) Fall registrations are opening soon. Double check all fall schedules to make sure schedules are correct before registration opens.

- 5) Have seniors respond to the feedback request survey about their URI experience; there are prizes they can win. Seniors are traditionally the most non-responsive to the survey, so faculty might mention the survey in their classes.

Associate Dean Thornber:

- 1) Hatch funding reports have been submitted to USDA-NIFA, thanks to all who provided input.
- 2) Emergency Preparedness training required for representative personnel from buildings and farm facilities assigned to CELS

Skip Wilson:

- 1) URI Day of Giving April 25th. Target is 1000 donors in a day for the college. Please spread the word and make a gift that day.

Faculty Secretary Rice:

- 1) *Elections to Senate:* The terms of Senator Boving, Senator Stolt, and Senator Opaluch will be ending in May. We will have 4 openings for senators in CELS because during the 2018-19 academic year CELS seated only 7 senators out of its full complement of 8. According to Dean Kirby, there will be workload reductions for those in Faculty Senate, which will be taken off research (versus teaching) if there is no research productivity. Electronic voting for senators will be done in mid-April. Faculty Secretary Rice will send out a formal call for nominations by CELS listserv soon.
- 2) *Elections for CELS Committees:* Elections for CELS Committees for 2019-2020 will be held at the CELS Faculty and Professional Staff Meeting. One third of the committee members will be ending their terms at the end of the academic year. Department chairs are asked to nominate faculty members from their department to serve based upon the departments without representation due to ending terms.
- 3) There was a general discussion about term limits for CELS committee members being for two three-year terms. The year 2019 marks six years since the current bylaws were adopted, and in many cases committee members have been serving for a full six years, thereby necessitating an unusually high turnover in committee membership for next year. It was decided by the Executive Council to examine two issues to insure easier staffing of committees: First, amendment of the bylaws to remove term limits on committee service, and second explicit provision of senior lecturers and teaching professors as eligible to serve as full faculty members on college committees.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

There was no New Business.

Adjournment: *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 3:10 pm*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary