

Minutes of the October 19, 2020 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 9:00am via Webex Teleconference due to in-person meeting restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Members present were Department Chairs Chandlee, Dalton, Gold, Mitkowski, Petersson, Roberts, Savage and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sheely and Wilga; *ex-officio* members Palmer Silvia, and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Associate Dean Sartini and Dean Kirby were absent. Associate Dean Sheely presided

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Dalton and seconded by Roberts to approve the October 5, 2020 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously upon amendment.

Announcements:

Associate Dean Wilga

1. The NSF Biological Sciences Directorate is reporting a 50% drop in grant applications. It may be an opportune time to increase chances for funding approvals.
2. There was a Research Community Meeting Oct 1, 2020 https://uri-edu.zoom.us/rec/share/7oYLZHNoH3fyvOcdKOjGcdUcL_sUT_soodkEDII7HT_R3GSsaqYTSxSCzcxXjMBX.XLtRFQzsFif1MMIb
3. International travel is still suspended; For domestic travel, travelers must read and follow guidelines for the destination state. TARs etc. are being processed per usual. Contact the Research Office if there are any other questions regarding research-related travel
4. There is an issue of overcrowding of the hallway end alcoves in CBLS where lab meetings are being conducted. All are reminded of social distancing requirements in these spaces.
5. CBLS 252 is nearing completion of repairs caused by leaks in the walls. This space will be becoming available for meetings.

Meredith Silvia

1. Meredith is currently reaching out and meeting with faculty that have start-up commitments.
2. *AES Hatch funds update* – the paperwork is currently with the Office of Sponsored Projects. Expect the funds to be available soon.

Associate Dean Sheely

1. Associate Dean Sheely stated that the Annual URI Foundation Day of Giving funds given to CE Center account will be used to support marketing and communication efforts for all CE programs.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business (general discussion):

1. Faculty teaching synchronous online courses asynchronously are encouraged to make more effort to utilize the available synchronous times to meet with students in some manner. Many reports of students experiencing a real disconnect from their professors. This will obviously vary by course but all professors are encouraged to take the pulse of the class and make modifications as needed
2. Instructor PPE kits or kit contents are still available from the Dean's Office. Contact Judy Palmer if you need more of these kits.

Adjournment: *Without objection Associate Dean Sheely declared adjournment at 9:30am*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary