

Minutes of the November 16, 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 Sartini, Sheely and Wilga; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. *Ex-officio* member Wilson was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made by Gold and seconded by Chandlee to approve the November 2, 2020 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. Dean Kirby inquired of the chairs as to any new issues connected with managing the Covid-19 pandemic. None were reported.
2. The Council of Deans in their last meeting focused on means to assure greater Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in hiring and programming. This followed a general meeting of the chairs last Friday with the same topic discussed.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. Advisors are reaching out to students not registered for the Spring. Registrations are down 20%. Expect an uptick in advising appointments before Thanksgiving.
2. Availability of some chemistry courses appears to be still problematic. Other classes such as genetics, and experiential learning opportunities may also have limited seats available. Faculty are asked to be creative and flexible about looking for alternatives for students.
3. The Fall 2021 is due in Green Hall by Nov 21. Chairs are asked to send draft schedules to Associate Dean Sartini no later than Nov 2, so she can look them over prior to official submission.

Associate Dean Sheely

1. There is a search underway for a clinical assistant professor with a split between teaching and CE engagement. The candidate will be expected to work with Prof. Still on leadership courses and to engage with the volunteer-centric CE programs (Watershed Watch, 4H and Master Gardeners).

Associate Dean Wilga

1. There are new Covid-distancing guidelines promulgated by the University for meeting outside the classroom (including CE engagements). Meetings in rooms should be based upon 1 person/100 sq. ft. of space.
2. If there is a need for students to stay on campus for research, independent study, etc., they are authorized to stay in the dorms for the rest of the semester.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

There was no new business.

Adjournment: *Without objection Dean Kirby declared adjournment at 9:20am*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary

