

Minutes of the February 25, 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 1:30 pm at the CBLS 435 conference room. Members present were Department Chairs Chandlee, Dalton, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Roberts, Savage, and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, Sheely and Thornber; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia, and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Department Chair Mitkowski was absent. Dean Kirby presided. PLS was represented by Professor Brown.

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Gold and seconded by Brown to approve the February 11, 2020 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously after a correction.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby:

- 1) As discussed at the previous meeting, the provost's office is seriously interested at looking at low enrollment courses, and especially grad courses 500-level plus. Future funding picture is uncertain and efficiency is needed with teaching assignments. Workload planning is key, so department chairs are key in this process per contract stipulations. There is need for greater dialog with graduate program directors to figure how to best build better efficiency into the workloads.
- 2) Low enrollment courses across the university are being identified; seminar and special problems courses are exempted, but they count less in the workload planning guidelines.
- 3) There is a need to give attention to proper close out of graduate applications. There were applications identified within the system from Fall 2018 in which applicants were never notified one way or another about the fate of their applications.

Associate Dean Sartini:

- 1) Associate Dean Sartini is working with the URI Foundation to develop a more streamlined way of identifying and selecting candidates for various scholarships that come available. Chairperson Gold suggested that there is better followup by the Foundation or the College in informing students that they have received a scholarship; and if the donors are still alive, providing contact information so that students can follow-up with proper letters of gratitude.
- 2) There will be a 2:30pm meeting to make final decisions about TA allocations.

Associate Dean Sheely:

- 1) There has been a workshop in cooperation with CE and the College of Pharmacy on the use of naloxone as an antidote to opioid overdoses as part of an effort to address the problem of opioid addiction in rural areas. Rhode Island is a hot spot nationally. There will be two more workshops held and the CELS community is most enthusiastically welcomed to take part. Contact Dean Sheely for further information.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

There was no new business

Adjournment: *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 2:10 pm*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary