

## **Minutes of the April 7, 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 via Webex Teleconference due to in-person meeting restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Members present were Department Chairs Chandlee, Dalton, Gold, Gomez-Chiarri, Mitkowski, Roberts, Savage and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, Sheely, and Thornber; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia, and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of the Minutes:** *A motion was made by Gomez-Chiarri and seconded by Mitkowski to approve the February 25, 2020 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

### **Announcements:**

#### ***Dean Kirby:***

1. There were agreements with the AAUP on the topics of delay on the tenure clock and teaching during the emergency. If the faculty member so chooses, mandatory P& T decisions may be pushed back for one year. Mandatory online/remote teaching is expected only during the emergency period of the quarantine/shelter in place period. The formal MOU with AAUP will be circulated soon, there is an email to faculty from Jay Walsh of the AAUP with a summary
2. There was discussion of the governor's executive order about crossing state lines to access research field sites. Dean Kirby urged affected faculty to read the Executive Order and make their judgment based upon their interpretation of the "travel to work out of state" provisions.
3. As for Lecturers - no changes to promotion and review timelines, unless a lecturer has not been able to teach their courses
4. The rules for S/S-/U grading apply to both graduate and graduate students; there will be a message soon coming from Assistant Dean Anderson that we can use to let students know of the procedure. The students are the ones that make the decision in consultation with advisors, and they make a request by May 15 (instructors are not told - grades will be converted by the registrar automatically for those submitting the request). Student advisers should take note.
5. Once all workload planning is done, the budget for instructors will be developed over the next 10 days.
6. For the Summer Sessions, faculty should check for rules on online versus remote teaching courses, then faculty should decide what to do with their courses. No in-person courses will be allowed for the summer.
7. There was a discussion about what to do about CELS graduation. There will be a URI celebration in the Fall. Departments maybe we can do a virtual graduation. The issue will be sent to the Commencement Committee for further discussion.

#### ***Associate Dean Thornber***

1. April 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for students accepting graduate assistantship offers
2. VP Snyder - reminds faculty about about reporting requirement for outside activities (consulting for pay)

3. There will be a one-year extension for spending start up funding

***Associate Dean Sartini***

1. The first session of Welcome Day went well. The system is easy to use, but some people were having trouble using microphones and signing in – There is a training session before the session on April 15th
2. Kim Anderson shared guidance to advisers on the S/S-/U alternative grading as - (see note above)
3. Summer course plans due to Becky and John Olerio on Monday April 13
4. Summer internships - if students need to drop - are there any deadlines for dropping?  
Sartini will check

***Associate Dean Sheely***

1. NIFA canceled all in person cooperative extension activities through June 30. She will be emailing Cooperative Extension Faculty and staff about how their CE programming is being affected by the emergency and what alternative plans are being made.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business

**New Business:**

There was no new business

**Adjournment:** *It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 1:55 pm*

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary