

Minutes of the January 25, 2021 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 1:00pm via Webex Teleconference due to in-person meeting restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Members present were Department Chairs Chandlee, Dalton, Mitkowski, Paton, Petersson, Roberts, Savage and Uchida; Associate Deans Sartini, Sheely and Wilga; *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia and Wilson; and Faculty Secretary Rice. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of the Minutes: *A motion was made by Chandlee and seconded by Roberts to approve the December 14, 2020 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. Dean Kirby noted that all classes will be online during the first week. ‘Normal’ class delivery begins Feb 1.
2. Enrollments are holding steady and the recent roll-out of the first Covid-19 vaccines bodes well for a near ‘normal’ fall semester.
3. The Annual Academic Summit in January facing on racial and gender equity issues on Jan 21st was a success. Dean Kirby thanked all CELS personnel who participated.
4. The university budget situation is uncertain.
5. Annual reviews and promotion packages are moving along in the process.
6. Dean Kirby announced the sad passing of FAVS graduate student Agus Setiyawan that occurred on January 23 in his hometown of Trenggalek in East Java, Indonesia.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. Classes will begin online for the first week. Please contact students enrolled in classes to build early contact and make them feel welcome!
2. PPE has been purchased by the college to aid in face-to-face class delivery. Contact Judith Palmer for PPE packages.
3. The Provost’s Office had COVID-19 related syllabus statements sent out on January 7. Please use these statements for all classes.
4. The University has instituted Early Alert Services (<https://web.uri.edu/earlyalert/>) to assist students with a variety of academic and personal problems, issues or difficulties. Faculty are urged to familiarize themselves with the services.

Associate Dean Sheely

1. Chandu is updating CELS websites to conform with the new (and constantly evolving) university-wide standards. The looks of your webpages may be changing a bit.
2. Deadlines for submission of Land Grant funding reports has passed. Laggards will be sought after.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. Submit any changes in lab protocols (including names of incoming personnel) to Associate Dean Wilga.

2. Decisions about allocation of RAs and Tas for the 2021-22 academic year are now being made.
2. Associate Dean Wilga is working with several entities across campus on a National Science Foundation Advance Grant focusing on “Organizational Change for Gender Equity in STEM Academic Professions.” If there is interest in assisting the effort, contact Associate Dean Wilga.
3. Decisions about the allocation of Research Assistantships is coming up soon.

Meredith Silvia

1. CELS researchers are reminded that the the CELS fiscal staff needs to be consulted about internal URI or URI Foundation grants that require an accounting of effort for match commitments so that proper accounting can be made.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

There was no new business

Adjournment: *Without objection Dean Kirby*  *declared adjournment at 1:30pm*

Respectfully submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary