

Minutes of the November 8, 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 9:00AM in CBL 435. Members present were Department Chairs Becker, Chandler, Mitkowski, Paton, Petersson, Roberts, Sheridan & Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, and Wilga; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, and Silvia. URI Foundation Representative Wilson was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Paton and seconded by Becker to approve the September 27, 2021 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously after slight edit.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. 70+ students have been suspended for not following Covid-19 vaccination protocols, so enforcement is happening
2. There is a search underway in BIO for a Bryan Dewsbury replacement. There will also be a Cluster hire initiative with a pedagogy focus - 3 positions - one in chemistry, one in math and the third will be in the big data side of life sciences in cooperation with the College of Arts and Sciences.
3. There will be a different approach to University-wide planning in comparison to previous years. There are indications from President Parlange that goals will include decreased teaching loads, increasing numbers of tenure-track faculty, a switch from a culture of cost-containment to one of increased revenue generation. How these play out remain to be seen. How will revenues be distributed? What role will non-degree-bearing training and programs contribute? What happens with Gen-Ed delivery? Many details need to be worked out through the University-wide Strategic Planning Initiative.
4. It is expected that the age to drive the 12 and 15 passenger vans will be dropped to 21 from 25. There will be a yearly training requirement for all faculty, staff and students driving these vehicles. More details will be forthcoming

Associate Dean Sartini

1. The Office of Summer Programs is encouraging offering of online courses of high enrollment. In order for an existing F2F course to be approved as an online course it needs to be submitted to the CELS Curriculum Committee by Jan 12th. For faculty interested in online teaching you need to have taken the Online Pedagogy course. The next offering is in February. Any course destined for online offering also has to be reviewed prior to approval by the FacSen. Deadline for submission is Dec 13th but it needs prior approval by Associate Dean Sartini.
2. Deadline for chairs to submit changes for the Fall courses to Enrollment Services is Dec 13th. Associate Dean Sartini needs to review prior to the deadline.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. Two reviews of the procedures in the Sponsored Projects support are underway. One by the Hanover Group and the other by NORDP aimed at finding ways to deliver better support for grant application & administration. Associate Dean Wilga is working with both groups to assure the interests of CELS researchers are represented.
2. The KUALI on-line grants management system is expected to help with grants management once fully implemented.

Meredith Silvia

1. State Administrative services will be issuing a WEX card for all vehicles aimed at simplifying charges for repairs and maintenance.

Judith Palmer

1. Nothing to report.

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

There was no new business

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary