

Minutes of the March 22, 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 Paton and seconded by Dalton to approve the March 8, 2020 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. The major topic of the Council of Deans was that of ‘burnout’ among faculty, staff & students attendant to the COVID-19 pandemic and attendant protocols. All are urged to engage in self-care as appropriate.
2. In response to a query by Chair Roberts, discussion about the rollout of the ‘Info-Ed’ grant management platform ensued. There was discussion of greater clerical help within CELS to manage the workload presented by the new system.
3. The Office of Community, Equity and Diversity is conducting its annual Campus Climate Survey. All are urged to participate here: <https://web.uri.edu/climate-survey/>
4. The role of University College is under review, with Dean Jayne Richmond expected to be retiring at the end of June 2021.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. There was a discussion led by Associate Dean Sartini on the topic of Blended Courses. The original intent of blended courses was to assist in making classroom space available for more courses. As a result, there is no specific requirement that the on-line portion be asynchronous. However, it is advisable that if there are courses to be listed as blended, it would be advantageous to most students that it be asynchronous (or recorded with video posted) to accommodate student schedules. There may be unusual instances in which some students, such as some on military scholarships that may have rarer requirements for attending regularly scheduled classes.
2. A new Academic Advisor, Peter Krafka will be attached to the Office of Academic and Student Affairs

Associate Dean Sheely

1. Associate Dean Sheely announced that the Landscape Architecture Department was authorized by the Faculty Senate to rejoin CELS. The move becomes effective July 1, 2021.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. There is an effort to educate CELS faculty, especially more junior faculty about Competitive NSF Career Awards. Contact Associate Dean Wilga for details.

2. Plans for the Genomics and Sequencing Center are under discussion. Affected faculty are requested to be in contact with Associate Dean Wilga.

Meredith Silvia

1. Transition of CELS Administrative Staff back to campus-based operations will begin April 5.

Judith Palmer

1. Judy thanked faculty & staff for making their room reservations online via the reservation system.

Old Business:

1. There was a general discussion about reopening of the campus in the fall. A goal is to cap face-to-face class enrollments at 150 students.

New Business:

1. Chairs are asked to query their departmental faculty about service on the URI Faculty Senate or CELS Committees per the attached list of members with expiring terms. CELS elections are slated for early April.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary

2021 CELS Elections -- Expiring terms

URI Faculty Senators

- 1) Richard Burroughs (MAF)
- 2) Joel Chandlee (CMB)
- 3) Bridget Rummele (PLE)

notes

Incumbents ineligible for reelection
Depts w/o Senator: ENRE, GEO, MAF & PLE

CELS Curriculum Committee

- 1) Rebecca Brown (PLE)
- 2) Pengfei Liu (ENRE)
- 3) Nancy Karraker (NRS)

Elected by Department ratified by full College

CELS Research Committee

- 1) Elizabeth Mendenhall (MAF)
- 2) Thomas Sproul (ENRE)

Depts w/o representation: ENRE, MAF, & PLE

CELS Cooperative Education & Outreach

- 1) Rebecca Brown (PLE)

Elected from faculty & staff w/ CE program

CELS Space Committee

- 1) Dawn Cardace (GEO)
- 2) Thomas Mather (PLE)

Depts w/o representation: GEO, MAF, PLE

CELS Commencement

- 1) Jody Camberg (CMB)

Depts w/o representation: BIO, CMB, ENRE,
GEO, MAF, NRS

CELS Bylaws

- 1) Katherine Petersson (FAVS)

Depts w/o representation: BIO, CMB, ENRE,
FAVS, GEO, NRS