

## Minutes of the September 13, 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, Savage & Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, and Wilga; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, and Silvia. URI Foundation Rep Wilson was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of Minutes:** *It was moved by Paton and seconded by Becker to approve the August 30, 2021 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

### **Announcements:**

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

1. The URI Policy on drivers of vans remains under review. The policy is that no person under 25 yo are allowed to drive 15-passenger vans. There is a move to change the age to 21. There is in development a list of authorized drivers & possible training course for drivers.
2. A few CELS faculty have applied for ADA accommodations for teaching of classes via remote. Applications are being processed quickly but approvals are not guaranteed.
3. President Parlange is out and about visiting departments and academic units. Inviting him to your department may help him to get to know us better and build bridges of goodwill.
4. Sabbatical applications are due in the Dean's office on September 15.
5. Promotion and Tenure packages are due on October 1. Interim Provost Laura Beauvais will be managing the P&T process.
6. Two searches are underway in CELS with a possibility of a few more, of particular concern is the replacement of the 'Brian Dewsbury position'
7. There has been a conscious effort to 'be gentle' on classes with low enrollments, but low enrollments remain a problem. Innovative ways to assure more students in seats is important.
8. Student numbers are looking good, and cooperation with vaccinations and mask policies appear to be well complied with.

#### ***Associate Dean Sartini***

1. The Testing Center won't be open for a couple of weeks. There is a new assistant director and coordinator coming on board. Accommodations for students may be needed to be handled by faculty for a while.
2. Faculty volunteers are needed for Open House in September and October. Volunteers should contact Associate Dean Sartini.
3. There is a need for Faculty Marshals for the 2020 Graduation Event on October 1.

***Associate Dean Wilga***

1. The Space Committee asked for advice on assigning individual desks to grad students. There is a distinction drawn between room space for graduate students and the actual assigned desk space. It was decided that it should be left up to individual faculty members supervising their individual grad students in consultation with their Chair to decide. Associate Dean Wilga will be developing a spreadsheet listing graduate student desk assignments.

***Meredith Silvia***

1. Effort certification reports will be sent out this week
2. Chairs in Administrative Unit 2 will be called to a meeting to discuss support staffing in each of the buildings housing Admin Unit 2 faculty members.

***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 9:45am.*

Respectfully Submitted:  
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary