

## Minutes of the September 27, 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 CBL5 435. Members present were Department Chairs Mitkowski, Paton, Petersson, Roberts & Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, and Wilga; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, and Silvia. Department Chairs Becker, Chandlee, and Mitkowski; and URI Foundation Rep Wilson were absent. Prof. Brown represented PLE, Prof. Pradhanang represented GEO, and Prof. Sun represented CMB. Dean Kirby presided.

**Approval of Minutes:** *It was moved by Paton and seconded by Roberts to approve the September 13, 2021 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously after slight edit.*

### **Announcements:**

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

1. Graduation for the Class of 2020 is set for Friday October 1, preparations have appeared to go smoothly.
2. There has been union agreements for non-classified and faculty to be required vaccinations or apply for extraordinary exemptions. The University will begin contacting those who have not uploaded vaccination forms to URI Health Services beginning in October. Per-course instructors should be notified by department chairs about vaccination. Surveillance testing for Covid-19 on some days shows no detection on some days, with a few cases on other days. Community public health efforts appear to be controlling the spread. There is no news about when indoor mask requirements will be relaxed.
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. Dean Kirby congratulated chairs for vastly reducing the number of low-enrollment courses over the last two years.
5. Secretary Rice inquired if there has been discussion at the Dean's Council about changes in IT policy. A discussion ensued about press reports of the August 17, 2021 of US Federal case of Synopsys, Inc. v URI over software copyright infringement issues.

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

1. The first open house event was successfully concluded. There was a request by parents and students to see more classrooms. She asked for feedback from departments on what more might be improved for the October open house.
2. CELS Student Affairs is considering the practice of putting an advising hold on juniors so that a preliminary audit of their programs can be done prior to their senior year so there is time to 'cure' any deficiencies. Under discussion is whether faculty need to sign off on all student program audits.
3. Modifications to the Fall 2022 schedule are due at the end of the week.

***Associate Dean Wilga***

1. The Office of Sponsored projects will begin enforcing a 5-day submission deadline prior to the agency submission deadline. CELS wants to see proposal 3 days prior to OSP submissions. Please plan accordingly.
2. The Hanover Foundation has been retained to assess the performance of the grant submission and management process at URI. There may be a need for core baseline funding for the Division of Research and Economic Development apart from overhead return to better capitalize the operation.

***Meredith Silvia***

1. Land Grant Projects are due to be announced October 1 by the Office of Sponsored Projects.
2. Under discussion are various software options to facilitate document signing such as Airslate & DocuSign. There is a need to have a bid process and there is an effort campus wide to put a system in place.

***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 9:50am.*

Respectfully Submitted:  
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary