

Minutes of the January 24, 2022 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 in via Zoom. Members present were Department Chairs Becker, Chandlee, Mitkowski, Paton, Petersson, Roberts, Savage, Sheridan & Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, Townson, and Wilga; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, Silvia. URI Foundation Representative Wilson was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Chandlee and seconded by Roberts to approve the December 5, 2021 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. The new semester is underway & all are encourage to keep up the same vigilance that made the last fall semester successful.
2. Position requests for new faculty and staff lines are requested with eye on the 1 to 2 year strategic horizon. Department chairs are asked to submit 1/2-page descriptions to the dean's office ASAP. The requests are due in the Provost's Office early February.
3. The university is pursuing federal Covid-19 funds that were provided to the state as a possible source of funding for the proposed life sciences building to house Neuroscience and animal care facilities.
4. Early indications based upon application rates is that there will be a healthy incoming class of freshmen in the fall.
5. President Parlange is focused on strategic planning for the university and is looking for completion of the effort by the end of May.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. New information about teaching protocols to avoid Covid-19 infections are posted in 'Teaching FAQs' (<https://web.uri.edu/coronavirus/teaching/>). All CELS faculty are asked to review this material.
2. Faculty are asked to keep Associate Dean Sartini informed of any Covid-related incidents so that any potential contact tracing and remediation can be effectuated.
3. If in the event that teaching of a class must be changed to remote, there are a few laptops available to provide on a loan basis to students in financial need. Faculty are to use their own judgment as to whether individual requests by students to have remote learning opportunities would be granted.
4. There will be a new system of holds being put on junior students prior to registration for their senior year classes. This will allow advisors to review student curriculum checklists and provide academic and career advising. This is expected to increase advising appointments in the spring, but allow for freed-up time for degree audits in the fall.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. Nothing to report

Associate Dean Townson

1. Reports are due from faculty members with Hatch Projects. Institutional reports to USDA-NIFA are due at the end of February.
2. Cooperative Extension volunteers will be required to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 similar to the rest of the URI community. Policy is being developed.
3. There is a search underway for an assistant farm manager.

Meredith Silvia

1. New Purchase and Travel Cards
2. A grants management specialist position will be advertised soon.

Old Business:

1. Department Chair Paton inquired about van driver training that was discussed in the past semester. At present, the training consists of a video posted on the Risk Control and Insurance Office website: <https://web.uri.edu/riskmanagement/15-passenger-van-driving/>

New Business:

1. There was no new business.

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, Faculty Secretary