

Minutes of the April 17, 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 CBL5 435. Members present were Department Chairs Becker, Chandlee, Mitkowski, Paton, Petersson, Roberts, Savage, Sheridan and Uchida; Associate Deans, Sartini, Townson and Wilga; Faculty Secretary Rice and *ex-officio* members Palmer, and Silvia, *ex-officio* member Wilson was absent. Dean Kirby presided.

Approval of Minutes: *It was moved by Chandlee and seconded by Paton to approve the April 4, 2022 Minutes of the Executive Council. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

Announcements:

Dean Kirby

1. CELS fared well in the recent Promotion and Tenure Reviews, with all 10 CELS faculty successful in their bids. Faculty within CELS have various job assignments so language of appointment letters and attention to workload assignments are key. There were 62 total P& T reviews this year across campus.
2. The URI budget proposal for FY 2023 may be released soon. There is an expectation of greater focus on the research enterprise of the university.
3. The CELS All Faculty and Professional Staff meeting will be May 4 with brunch beginning at 8:30am with the start of the business at 10am.
4. Presidential Graduate Fellowships may be institutionalized in the Fall of 2023. Discussions are underway for charging in-state tuition rates for Ph.D. students to encourage greater growth in Ph.D. research programs. Master's degree tuition rates are expected to remain the same.
5. There will be training sessions for chairs to go over the process of part-time faculty hires on May 3 & 4. There have been a number of rules changes.
6. Chief Information Office Karlis Kaugars has been announcing a series of measures to tighten up cyber security across all of URI. Obsolete computer hardware poses a severe risk, and will not be allowed onto secure systems. At present the URI Peoplesoft financials module is secure, but all URI systems will be required to similarly comply with enhanced security within a few months.

Associate Dean Sartini

1. Dr. Jacqui Springer of the Office of Student Support and Advocacy Services has announced that there is a new set of processes for student outreach that can be found on their website <https://web.uri.edu/deanofstudents/outreach/>
2. There have been a few updates to the URI Title IX processes that can be reviewed on the website: <https://web.uri.edu/titleix/know-your-title-ix/>
3. CELS Commencement will be 6pm on Friday May 20 at the Ryan Center, and the Main Ceremonies will be on the Quad at 12:30pm on Sunday May 22. 8 Faculty Marshals are needed and volunteers are sought.

Associate Dean Wilga

1. Graduate faculty no longer need to be adjunct status to serve as outside members on graduate student committees.
2. There have been 14 accepted graduate students for the Fall some of which have been awarded diversity fellowships and presidential fellowships.
3. There is discussion of making decisions about fellowship/assistantship funding decisions as early as January 1 to allow offers to promising students early in the year.

Associate Dean Townson

1. Faculty engaged in funded USDA-NIFA research should consult with Associate Dean Townson about a number of NIFA reporting and other updates.
2. Budgets for the Hatch and Smith-Lever Projects are being developed. There will be an effort to direct more funding toward seed grants in areas where greater extramural funding might be able to follow.

Meredith Curfman

1. There will be some updates to the faculty summer recontracting process. In part department chairs will be removed from the approval chain in favor of simple sign-off by the associate deans.
2. The CELS grant specialist position has posted. We are expecting a new person soon to assist with pre-award proposal & grant support.
3. Course fee funds need to be spent before June 30th or they return to the general fund.

Old Business:

1. Faculty Secretary Rice announced the results of the recently concluded CELS Senatorial Elections. The new CELS Senators serving from 2022 to 2025 are David Bidwell, William Gordon, and Graham Forrester.

New Business:

1. There was no new business

Adjournment: *It was moved & seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Michael A. Rice, CELS Faculty Secretary