

Minutes of the November 5th, 2021, Meeting of the CELS Advisory Council

Call to Order: A meeting of the College of the Environment and Life Sciences Advisory Council was held at 9am via WebEx video conferencing. In attendance were Advisory Council members: Robert DiFillippo, Kevin Killeen, Becca Treitch, Deb Imondi, Priscilla Brooks, Patrick Maguire, Skip Wilson, CELS/URI Foundation; Associate Deans Sartini and Wilga, URI CELS; Judy Palmer, Executive Assistant, URI CELS; John Kirby, URI CELS Dean presided.

URI-CELS Presentations and Discussions:

Dean John Kirby

Dean Kirby noted this will be our last year via WebEx, next meeting will be in person with President Parlange in May 2022, date TBA. We had 1100 students show up on campus without being vaccinated and now close to 100 of them are no longer with the University, because they didn't want to get tested. To this point we're getting ready to transition some former turf facilities into pastures for our animal science program and for plant sciences program to do additional crop work. Land we leased to a Kingston Company, while restricting our ability to do work in the agricultural areas. This change has been in the papers. Looking for opportunities to increase masters or graduate certificates, ways to expand opportunities professional development.

New from the URI Foundation:

Skip Wilson

This year's Day of Giving on October 7th was a huge success, both for the university and college. The university took in \$1.5 million from 3439 donors, both of these being record numbers. CELS received the greatest number of gifts. Our Council members provided \$8,500 in matching funds, helping to raise a total of \$30,000 dollars for our College on Day of Giving. Overall giving to CELS has increased to historic levels in recent years. Already \$1.4 million has been raised in the current fiscal year alone. Skip pointed to some examples of great work happening in CELS thanks to generous philanthropic support: new scholarships and fellowships to inspire students and their chosen discipline, new endowed international travel and independent research funding for students. Because of strong early success, President Parlange, board chair Tom Ryan, and campaign chair Al Verrecchia made a major announcement to increase our public campaign goal from \$250 million to \$300 million.

CELS Presentation:

Associate Dean Cheryl Wilga, Research and Graduate Education

CELS is looking for Professional Master's Programs that facilitate people's advancement in a career. Research graduate degree programs currently in CELS, biological and environmental sciences (MS, Ph.D.), environmental and natural resource economics (MS, Ph.D.), and marine affairs (MS, Ph.D.). Professional graduate degree programs in CELS, environmental science and management (MS), marine affairs (MA), we're in the planning stage of developing a landscape architecture professional degree.

Graduate certificate programs in CELS, GIS & remote sensing, Hydrology, Community Planning, Science writing & rhetoric and fisheries & aquaculture science. Graduate accelerated certificate program, fisher science, GIS & geospatial technologies and natural resources & the environment. Expand our graduate student enrollment.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Recording:

https://rhody.webex.com/webappng/sites/rhody/recording/7967e0402066103a9ee80050568c9193/pla_yback

Attachments:

Skip Wilson Presentation/Dr. Wilga presentation

Adjournment: *The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.*

Respectfully Submitted:

Judith M. Palmer, Executive Assistant to Dean Kirby