UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

To: Members of the 2013-2014 Graduate Council

From: Nasser Zawia, Dean
Keith Killingbeck, Associate Dean

Date: 23 October 2013

RE: Agenda for Meeting Number 475 of the Graduate Council to be held on Monday 28 October 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the rectangular Board Room of the Alumni Center.

I. Call to order

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 474, 23 September 2013

III. Announcements

A. Recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

JOHN-DAVID SWANSON BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES 9/24/2013
KEUNHAN (KAY) PARK MECH, IND, & SYST ENGINEERING 9/24/2013
JOHN DICECCO ELECTRICAL, COMP, & BIOMED ENG 10/4/2013

B. Libby Miles joins the Graduate Council as a replacement for Kevin McClure who asked to step away from the Council because of his new assignment as Chair of Communication Studies. Libby will also assume Kevin’s position on Council committees (please see updated committee membership list below).

C. Adjustments to the Council minutes for the meeting on 22 April 2013 (meeting No. 472)

The agenda for Council meeting No. 472 was distributed to Council members before the Faculty Senate meeting on 18 April 2013. Because of the outcome of the Faculty Senate meeting, items E and F were introduced in the ‘Announcements’ section of the meeting, but were necessarily absent from the previously distributed agenda. Although the minutes included item E, they did not include the discussion and two votes that took place under item F. Item F follows and, with the approval of the Council, will be added to the minutes of meeting No. 472.

F. Dean Zawia reported on the results of the Faculty Senate meeting that took place last week on 18 April 2013. The proposal from the Graduate Council to eliminate confusion regarding Graduate Faculty Status by replacing Section 4.70.10 in the University Manual with new wording approved by the Council was tabled by the Chair of the Faculty Senate after a period of discussion. During the Senate discussion, it was noted that ‘clinical’ and ‘research’ faculty were not mentioned in the first sentence of the proposed Section 4.70.10. The Council moved, and approved unanimously, the addition of these two faculty types to Section 4.40.10. The first sentence in that section now begins “The Graduate Faculty at the University of Rhode Island shall be adjunct, clinical, emeritus, research, or tenure-track faculty who have ....” Dean Zawia noted that there was no provision in the Graduate Faculty Status policy approved by the Council and introduced the following new section for consideration.
“4.70.15 Removal of Graduate Faculty Status. In addition to the College-initiated requests for non-continuation of Graduate Faculty status (4.70.14), the Dean of the Graduate School, after consultation with the dean, chair, and faculty member involved, may also request removal of Graduate Faculty status in cases where graduate students were put at risk by consistently poor mentoring. Such requests would be submitted to the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council will then approve or reject the request.”

A motion was made, and approved unanimously, to add this section as worded to the Graduate Faculty Status policy.

D. Update - Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards
E. Recap - Graduate Faculty Summit, 15 October 2013

IV. Committees
   A. Curriculum Committee

I. 400-level courses

New Courses:

1) College of Engineering
   Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering

ELE 425 Renewable and Efficient Electric Power Systems (3)
This course introduces students to renewable and efficient electrical power systems, ranging from the basic concepts of electric power engineering to renewable energy systems such as wind and solar systems. Pre: ELE 212 or 220 or OCE 206, and PHY 204, and MTH 244 or 362; or permission of instructor.

II. 500/600-level courses

Changes:

1) Graduate School of Oceanography

OCG 555 Modern Oceanographic Imaging and Mapping – course to be cross-listed with OCE 555

2) College of Nursing

NUR 601 Foundations of Nursing Science – course to be deleted
**NUR 660 Philosophical Foundations of Healthcare Research** – course title changed to “Philosophical and Theoretical Bases of Health Research” and course description changed to “Presentation of the philosophical and theoretical bases of contemporary healthcare research”

**New Courses**

1) Graduate School of Oceanography

**OCG (GEO, CVE) 519 Marine Environmental Organic Chemistry (3)**
Physico-chemical properties of organic compounds, their transformations and environmental fluxes with a focus on marine topics. Offered alternate years. Pre: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

2) College of Human Science and Services
Communicative Disorders (Speech/Language Pathology)

**CMD 586X Multisensory Instruction in Language and Literacy (3)**
Intervention for reading, spelling, and written expression based on principles of Orton Gillingham approach for working with individuals with dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Pre: matriculated graduate student in Speech-Language Pathology or permission of instructor.

3) The Graduate School
Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program

**NEU 504 Neuroethics (1)**
Neuroethics is the study of ethical issues regarding research in neuroscience. Students will learn the implications of neuroscience research for human self-understanding, ethics and policy. Pre: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

**Additional Curricular Matters**

1) College of Arts and Sciences
Chemistry

**Proposed Graduation Requirements**
The coursework requirements for both Ph.D. and thesis M.S. degrees will be compressed. As we are proposing to compress the core courses in the four classic areas of chemistry into three interdisciplinary courses, the number of courses required for a Ph.D. and M.S. degree could be compressed accordingly.

**Ph.D. Degree**
1) Complete CHM 500, 505, 506 and 507.
2) Complete a minimum of six credits of additional classroom coursework. Graduate-level courses taken in other departments require pre-approval by the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

3) Pass Qualifying Exams, complete Thesis Proposal and then pass Comprehensive Exam

4) Earn three seminar credits as specified in CHM 642, 643, & 644.

5) Complete a total of 72 credit hours of work, complete the residency requirement, and write and orally defend a dissertation.

**M.S Degree (Thesis Option)**
1) Complete CHM 500, 505, 506 and 507.

2) Complete a minimum of three additional credits of classroom coursework. Graduate-level courses taken in other departments require pre-approval by the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

3) Earn one seminar credit, CHM 642.

4) Complete a total of 30 credit hours of work and write and orally defend a thesis.

**M.S. Degree (Non-Thesis Option)**
1) Complete CHM 500, 505, 506 and 507.

2) Complete a minimum of 12-15 additional credits of classroom coursework. Graduate-level courses taken in other departments require pre-approval by the Graduate Curriculum Committee.

3) Pass a Comprehensive Exam. This exam shall be in a written format and will be a minimum of four hours in length. The exam shall be written by the student’s advisor in consultation with the Department and will cover the coursework taken by the student. This exam will be taken near the completion of the student’s formal coursework.

4) Earn one seminar credit, CHM 642.

5) Complete five to eight credit hours of directed research (CHM 551 and 552).

**OVERARCHING STATEMENT (from the Chemistry Department)**

**Development of an Interdisciplinary Curriculum for First-Year Graduate Students in Chemistry**

Chemistry is a richly interdisciplinary undertaking. To enable our students to make new discoveries and invent new applications, we must inculcate them with a rigorous understanding of fundamental chemical principles, delivered through courses (firmly rooted in the interdisciplinary nature of the field)/(that recognize/exploit the unavoidably interdisciplinary nature of the field). The collection of courses we propose represents a unified effort to immediately immerse the first-year graduate students in this fully interdisciplinary practice of chemistry. The courses are rigorous, emphasizing the integration of fundamental principles as the operational basis for chemistry, but they are also charged with this interdisciplinary flavor. The goal is to accelerate our students’ ability to develop a grounded, sophisticated understanding of core chemical principles and to apply these fundamental concepts to modern, translational research topics.

Rather than compartmentalizing our courses into the traditional divisions of chemistry, we propose to present the material from the beginning in a way that makes clear our expectation—and the necessity of modern chemical research—that the students be able to integrate their existing knowledge so that they can cope with cross-disciplinary research. For the purpose of curriculum delivery, we will teach the core curriculum in three courses, though there will be thematic overlap between them. All incoming graduate students will be required to take these courses concurrently, so they represent a comprehensive, unified curriculum in modern chemistry.
CHM 505 – Chemical Synthesis and Mechanism

- Molecular structure and reaction mechanisms
- Controlling the reactivity of complex molecules
- Organometallic complexes and catalysis
- Synthesis and design of organic polymers
- Synthesis and manipulation on the nanoscale

CHM 506 – Fundamentals of Chemical Analysis

- Scientific development of chemical analysis
- Physical principles of measurement
- Small molecule analysis.
- Analysis of extended structures.
- Analysis of multicomponent / multiphase systems.

CHM 507 – Chemical Structure and Material Property

- Scientific development of the physical basis of chemical structure and reactivity
- Physical principles of chemical structure calculation and chemical reactivity prediction
- Theoretical analysis of small molecule structure and reactivity/energetics
- Theoretical analysis of macro- and extended-scale structures and reactivity/energetics

2) The Graduate School

Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program

Neuroscience: UPDATED requirements

M.S., Ph.D.
401.874.4233, uri.edu/gsadmis/inp

The Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program involves faculty from the departments of Biological Sciences; Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Chemistry; Cell and Molecular Biology; Communicative Disorders; Electrical, Biomedical, and Computer Engineering; Mechanical, Industrial, and Systems Engineering; Psychology; and Physical Therapy. It is administered by the Graduate School and an executive committee appointed by the dean of each participating college.

Executive Committee: Professor Zawia, chair, Professors Gabriele Kass-Simon, Lisa Weyandt, Associate Professor Besio, Assistant Professors Mahler and Worthen, Adjunct Professor Mosley Austin.

Faculty: Professors Faghri, Hufnagel, Kass-Simon, Kay, Kumaresan, Ohley, Parang, Sun, Webb, Weyandt, Willis, and Zawia; Associate Professors Agostinucci, Besio, DeBoef, Goren, Kim, Kovoor, Mahler, Martin, Seeram, and Sun; Assistant Professors He and Worthen; Adjunct Professors Anagnostopoulos, DiCecco, and Mosley Austin.

Specializations
Dementia and aging; central nervous system disorders; vertebrate and invertebrate cellular, molecular, and behavioral neurobiology imaging; and neural engineering.

Master of Science

Admission requirements: GRE general test, a bachelor’s degree in the sciences (or related disciplines), two letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and transcripts of all previous degrees are required. Applicants are encouraged to specify in their statement of purpose one or more faculty members with whom they are interested in working, and to explain why. Students with deficiencies in undergraduate courses relevant to their Program of Study may be required to take additional courses without program credit.
In general, students will be admitted if they meet the minimum GRE requirements (a combined verbal and quantitative score of 300 in the new system and 1,100 in the old system), a minimum GPA of 3.00, good letters of recommendation, and an acceptable statement of purpose. In exceptional circumstances, the student who falls short may still be considered for admission with further evaluation.

Program requirements: The program requires a minimum of 30 credits: 18-20 in coursework, 6-9 in research, and 1-6 in electives. Required courses include: NEU 502, 503, 504, PSY 532, as well as at least one credit NEU 581/582. Two semesters of NEU 591 are required, one in the students primary area of research, and one in a related discipline. Two semesters of journal club (NEU 587 or equivalent), a thesis proposal and successful defense of thesis are required.

Doctor of Philosophy
Admission requirements: Same as for master’s degree.

Program requirements: Successful completion of a qualifying examination or an earned M.S. with thesis in an appropriate discipline, a comprehensive examination, and dissertation defense. As the qualifying exam is meant to be equivalent to the M.S. degree, the examination must be taken no later than the first semester following the completion of eighteen credits of coursework. This examination is intended to assess a student’s potential to perform satisfactorily at the doctoral level. A minimum of 72 credits is required, 18 to 28 of which may be earned through dissertation research (NEU 699). Up to 30 transfer credits will be accepted for students who have already earned an M.S. degree. Registration in NEU 581 and 582 is required for one year, and successful completion of NEU 502, 503, and 504 are required. PSY 532 (or equivalent) and one additional statistics or computational analysis course (e.g. STA 500, 502, 541, or 545) are required. Two semesters of NEU 591 are required, one in the students primary area of research, and one in a related discipline. Doctoral students must enroll in journal club (NEU 587 or equivalent) each semester until completing comprehensive exams. Depending on a student’s previous training and experience, certain requirements may be waived at the discretion of the student’s dissertation committee and the Graduate School. In the final semester, a formal presentation of thesis research is required in 581/582.

Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Neuroscience
A student who does not seek a neuroscience degree, but instead wants official recognition that he/she has specific training and instruction in neuroscience, can receive a Certificate in the Neurosciences.

Admission requirements: A bachelor’s degree in any field with a 3.00 GPA or higher. Students already enrolled in a master’s or doctoral degree at URI are eligible to apply. Students not in a graduate degree program may also apply.

Program requirements: Students will be required to successfully complete 12 credits of neuroscience coursework including NEU 503.

3) College of Business Administration

“Catalog Changes for Health Care Courses”

Program requirements: The M.B.A. program curriculum has been updated to maintain a program that is current and relevant in the workplace. The part-time M.B.A. program requires a minimum of 36 credits and a maximum of 45 credits. First, students are required to take the following seven courses: ECN 590, MBA 500, 502 or 532, 503 or 533, 504 or 534, 505, 565. Waiver exams are available for MBA 500, 504, and 505. MBA 500, MBA 503, and ECN 590 can be waived with permission of the program director based on successful completion of recent equivalent college-level courses at an AACSB-accredited institution. Students then must select five out of the following seven
courses: MBA 510 or 537, 530, 540, 550 or 535, 555, 560 or 536, and 562. Finally, students are required to take three electives to complete their program of study.

V. Topics for Discussion

A. Proposal for a Pilot Assistantships Program to Attract Outstanding New Students

Introduction: The number of teaching assistantships (TAs) has not significantly increased in many decades. At the same time, student enrollment in undergraduate degree programs has dramatically increased over the last ten years. Furthermore, the allocation of TAs has not been responsive to changing trends in undergraduate education. This is in part due to the absence of a central authority charged with continually aligning the distribution of teaching resources with the rapidly changing educational environment. Perhaps as a consequence, the growth in graduate enrollment remained flat from 1999 to 2009 and has modestly increased over the last 4 years. Many graduate programs cite the small number of available assistantships as a barrier to student recruitment.

Efforts by the Office of the Provost to provide a tuition-differential for research assistantships have helped to save funds on out-of-state students, which were reinvested to increase in the number of RAs. In addition the Provost allocated ten more assistantships to the Graduate School to distribute to various programs where new enrollments required more instructional support. These efforts have been helpful however, more needs to done.

Purpose: The main goal of this program is to recruit new outstanding graduate students and to provide sustainable support for them. This pilot a program would also significantly increase teaching and service assistantships (GTAs and GAAs) to meet higher curricular and service demands and to boost graduate enrollment at URI.

Mechanism: The Graduate School will realign and use additional student support funds it has acquired in the last few years and leverage that in a cost-sharing model to introduce up to 50 new assistantships into the system. The Office of the Provost and the Division of Research and Economic Development will be invited to participate in co-funding this opportunity. Colleges and departments may participate in this opportunity by using a variety of sources including overhead monies, Foundation funds, and other non-state resources they may have. Other possibilities maybe to assist faculty support students before grants are funded and/or at the end of the funding cycle. This will be a separate program in addition to the scholarships, fellowships, and diversity awards regularly offered by the Graduate School.

Conditions:
1. These funds will be restricted to new students and will remain with such a student for two (masters) to three years (doctoral) based on both academic and service performance.
2. Departments or Programs will be required to provide a stipend for the new students while the Graduate School will cover tuition and 20% of the fees.
3. Alternatively a program may pay for the tuition and fees and request the Graduate School to cover the stipend.
4. Programs, departments, and colleges will be asked to make nominations of new students for this program and identify their match funds by February 1 of each academic year.
5. A committee will be formed with members from the Graduate Council, the Graduate School, and the Office of the Provost to review these nominations.
6. A higher priority will be given to programs that identify and offer new sources of funding to co-fund a TA. Splitting existing TAs to co-fund this opportunity will not be allowed.
7. The total number of TAs allocated to a college should increase through this program. The Graduate School will monitor the progress of this initiative to make sure that departments or colleges are not shifting their existing TA funds for other purposes.

8. The Office of the Provost and the Graduate School will distribute a subset of these TAs to departments in response to significant shifts in enrollment patterns. These supplemental dynamic enrollments-based TAs will not be required to submit a match.

9. Special consideration will be given to requests that will promote diversity among students.

Outcomes: The Graduate School will pilot this program for three years. It will consider this program successful if 5-10 new assistantships are added to the system each year.

B. Certificate Programs -- Development of a strategy for creating an appendix to the Graduate School Manual that outlines all guidelines and policies related to certificate programs. As mentioned previously, our guiding principle should likely be to keep our certificate policies as identical to graduate degree policies as possible.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment