University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 486, 15 December 2014
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Peter August, Denise Coppa, David Faflik, Michael Greenfield, Brenton DeBoef, Stephen Kogut, Julia Lovett, Karen McCurdy, Libby Miles, Daniel Sheinin, Evelyn Sterne, Devon Swanson, Lubos Thoma

Council Members Not Present: Jacqueline Britto, Rainer Lohmann, Matt Luby, Matt Porter, Scott McWilliams

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Megan Yakey

I. Call to order at 2:02 PM by Dean Zawia

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 485 were approved

III. Announcements

A. Dean Killingbeck recognized recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

DARMENDRA RAMCHARRAN PHARMACY 11/21/2014
DONALD ROBADUE MARINE AFFAIRS 11/21/2014
PORTER HOAGLAND MARINE AFFAIRS 11/21/2014
CAMERON GOODWIN MECH, IND, & SYST ENG 11/28/2014
DEYU LI PHARMACY 12/8/2014

B. Dean Zawia announced to Council that the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools has put out a call for nominations. He and Associate Dean Killingbeck encouraged nominations for these regional awards

C. Dean Zawia updated Council on the 2014 Graduate Faculty Summit that was held December 9th at the Hardge Forum in the Multicultural Center. He asked for feedback from Council. Council indicated that they were pleased with the positive work that was done. There was informative topics, and collaboration with various departments moving in a positive direction. One of the best outcomes of the day was the decision to create a task force to look at Assistantships and how they are reviewed.

D. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck gave brief reports on the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools. Some important things taken away were moving away from talking in the echo chamber and instead talking to government officials and our legislators about the importance of graduate educations. It was also noted that there was a great increase of over 60% in the number of students in India who took the GRE from 2013 to 2014.
E. Dean Zawia noted to Council that 23 EGRA awards were given out.

F. Associate Dean Killingbeck, Libby Miles and Michael Greenfield reported to Council on the work that has been done on the development of rubrics for EGRA’s, and scholarship/fellowship nominations. The suggestion was made for the Graduate School to provide the academic performance equation. A few comments regarding the formatting and subject matter were noted. It was determined that the revisions will be reviewed again in January and voted upon to include with the Fellowship/Scholarships call for nominations that will go out in February. The announcements that go out for them will need to be reviewed as well to incorporate the new rubrics. A suggestion was made to separate research-based proposals, and travel based proposals for the Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards competition.

G. Dean Zawia put forth a motion to approve the graduate degrees that will be awarded in December 2014. The motion was approved.

H. Abran Salazar will be replacing Libby Miles next semester in Council.

IV. Committees
   A. Nominating Committee
      After speaking with Mr. Wurman, he indicated to Dean Zawia that would prefer not to be our commencement speaker. As per the vote of the Council from our November 2014 meeting, the information of the next most desired speaker, Frank Savage, was forwarded to the Provost's office.

   B. Curriculum committee
      Changes Approved

      Tabled Items
      EDC 516 Teaching English as a Second Language
      EDC 527 (PSY 527) Language Study for Reading Teachers
      EDC 563 Teaching Reading to Multicultural Populations
      EDC 501 Socio-Cultural Aspects of Language Minority Education
      EDC 506 Researching Language in Education Settings
      EDC 515 Structured English Immersion and Sheltered English
      EDC 519 Teaching Practicum in TESOL/Dual Language Immersion

      New Courses Approved

      Courses Deleted

      Additional Curricular Matters
Proposal to use 42 credits of Nursing MS program at URI for DNP program credits – a motion was made to make an exception for the students in the BSDNP to accept 42 credits of a Masters degree earned at URI, towards the DNP 11 approved, 2 abstentions.

V. Topics for Discussion
A. Permanent embargoes for theses/dissertations was tabled due to time constraints

B. Program Committee structure for students in CELS Biological and Environmental Sciences degree program regarding who is qualified as ‘inside’ members is being reviewed. Models from other universities were looked at to help guide the discussion. This item was tabled due to time constraints.

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business
Thanks to the 2 members of Council who are leaving us during the winter break, Brenton DeBoef and Libby Miles. Happy Holidays to all!!!

VI. Adjournment at 3:55 pm