University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 428, September 15, 2008  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Brian Gallagher, Chong Lee, William Rosen, Gary Stoner, Beth Marcoux, Mary Sullivan, Matthew Freeman, Jennifer Jones, Kevin McClure, Lori Ciccomascolo, Cynthia Willey

Others Present: Associate Dean Harold Bibb, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Ms. Megan Verry

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m. by Associate Dean Harold Bibb.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 427 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Brief Welcome

B. Introductions

C. Recent Appointments to the Graduate Faculty
   Adjunct Asst. Prof. Deanna Bergondo - Natural Resources Science
   Asst. Research Prof. Julie Coiro – Oceanography
   Adjunct Prof. Stephen Sparks – Oceanography
   Asst. Prof. Kim Hensley Owens – College Writing Program
   Asst. Prof. He (Helen) Huang – Biomedical Engineering
   Asst. Prof. Walter Besio – Biomedical Engineering
   Adjunct Asst. Prof. Perry Gayaldo – Natural Resources Science
   Assoc. Prof. Brian Krueger – Political Science
   Asst. Prof. Kristen Johnson – Political Science
   Asst. Prof. Marc Hutchinson – Political Science

D. Brief reports from Associate Dean Harold Bibb and Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck on the Council of Graduate Schools summer meeting that took place in Vail, Colorado. Associate Dean Killingbeck recounted issues from other schools that had moved away from a centralized graduate school and how many have moved back, thereby showing that the centralized structure currently used by URI appears to be the preferred model.

   Associate Dean Killingbeck also reported that there is great fluctuation in top positions in colleges and universities across the county.

   Associate Dean Bibb reported that the NRC ratings should be released in late September to mid October. The goal of these ratings is to provide a basis of comparison for doctoral programs for both schools and prospective students. The ratings were derived using both direct and statistical data. More detailed information is available on the CGS website. Associate Dean Bibb also found that some schools were using the NRC’s criteria as a basis for their own internal assessment.
Associate Dean Bibb reported on a session from the summer meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools in which graduate student funding was discussed. He reported that there seems to be two groups of institutions with regard to this issue. Some institutions appear to have no real problem in providing graduate student support, while others face challenges that are similar to those here at URI. He reported a novel pattern of support that has been adopted by one university in which each program is given a block grant. The program is then able to determine whether the funds from the block grant will be used to hire per course instructors, teaching assistants or research assistants. The size of the grant is based on program performance in such areas as student completion rates and outside funding that is obtained by both students and program faculty.

IV. New Business

A. Graduate Council meeting dates were approved through the end of the year. Further review of the meeting dates for 2009 as well as the possibility of moving the meeting time will be presented at the next meeting, which is to be held on Monday September 29th at 2:00 p.m.

B. Associate Dean Bibb asked for three people to serve on the Nominating Committee. Those who stepped forward were Kevin McClure, Brian Gallagher and Cynthia Willey.

C. Associate Dean Bibb then gave a brief explanation of the different Graduate Council sub-committees and asked members to list three choices of different sub-committees they would like to participate in. The members of the Nominating Committee will use self-nomination forms to determine the preferences of Council members.

D. Associate Dean Killingbeck asked for consideration of two X-courses that were received after the final meeting of the Graduate Council in order to give them retroactive approval for this fall semester.
   i. PSY 531X was given tentative approval pending a favorable library statement
   ii. CVE 645X was given tentative approval pending a favorable library statement as well as the reconciliation of the various issues posed by Council members

E. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Graduate Council will not consider any courses, X courses included, if they are not received by the Graduate School at least one week before the last Curriculum Meeting scheduled for the year.

V. Old Business

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck presented the Council with a list of courses that are being removed from the catalog as they have not been offered in four or more years. These deletions were not contested by the departments. Going forward, upon the recommendation of the NEASC, the time frame of those courses that may be considered for deletion will be lowered to 2 years, unless contested by the department. This will assure students a more accurate view of our Graduate programs and the courses available in each.
VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.