University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 434, February 23, 2009  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Kevin McClure, Lori Ciccomascolo, Steven Carey, Matt Freeman, Kathleen Davis, William Rosen, Wayne Lee, Cynthia Willey-Temkin, Brian Gallagher, Beth Marcoux, Davida Robinson, Mary Sullivan

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Associate Dean Harold Bibb.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 433 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. A welcome was given to Megan Verry who is the newly appointed Graduate School Executive Assistant.

B. Recent Appointments to the Graduate Faculty
   Ilya Buynevich, Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Oceanography
   Richard Cowles, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Plant Sciences
   Daniel Holland, Adjunct Professor, Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

C. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck updated Council members on the progress toward having letters of acceptance be automatically emailed. The Graduate School’s goal is to have an email generated automatically once an admission is processed. This will provide the prospective student with the good news immediately. Full implementation of this process will require the talents of an Information Technologist, a position which is currently vacant at the Graduate School. However, until the full program can be implemented, the admissions person will run a query at the same time that letters of acceptance are being generated which will provide an email to the prospective student documenting that the student has been accepted and that further documentation will arrive shortly. It is also the hope of the Graduate School that because the email will have a copy of Associate Dean Harold Bibb’s signature on it, the document can also serve as a tool for international students to begin the process of procuring the needed Visa to study at the University. Council will be updated as more information becomes available.

D. Provost Donald DeHayes addressed the council briefly to inform them of a new program that will be going into effect if the current state budget is approved. This program will cover the difference between out-of-state and in-state tuition for grant funded Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) who are considered to be out-of-state students. Currently, GRAs are provided a stipend that is covered by grants and some combination of student and grant funds cover tuition and partial fees. This can be especially expensive to grants that cover the cost of tuition for out-of-state students. In order to create the funding that will allow this to happen, there will have to be a redistribution of a small number of Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA). Fifteen to seventeen GTAs will be eliminated
to fund this initiative. This will be done carefully after much thought so as not to hinder those disciplines that do not rely heavily on grant funds. He noted that one GTA position can fund the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for approximately three GRA positions. He hopes this program will be in place for July 1\textsuperscript{st} but will not be sure until the budget is passed by the state. The Provost believes this will improve the quality of the GRAs that choose to come to URI and may in the long run stimulate more grant funding as well.

IV. New Business

A. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck proposed to Council two meeting times in which Ms. Kathy Pruner from Educational Testing Service (ETS) would be available to come to URI and do a workshop for Graduate Program Directors, Chairs as well as Members of the Graduate Council. Her presentation would cover issues related to the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Deans Bibb and Killingbeck would then extend the workshop to include a question and answer period for discussion of issues regarding graduate education at URI. Associate Dean Killingbeck suggested the workshop could take place either after the 20 April 2009 Graduate Council Meeting or on 6 April 2009. More details will follow as they become available.

B. Associate Dean Harold Bibb discussed guidelines regarding who is eligible to march in graduate commencement exercises. A motion was made to approve the following eligibility requirements:

- Those who have completed their degree requirements by August 2008, December 2008 or May 2009
- Those who will have completed their coursework during or before the Spring 2009 semester and will have successfully defended their dissertations/theses (if a dissertation or thesis is required) by April 24, 2009
- Those who have completed both their coursework and their clinical internships by September 14\textsuperscript{th}, 2009

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Committee

Changes Approved:

- BPS520 Biomedical Sciences Journal Club – change in prerequisite
- BPS670 Advanced Pharmacokinetics – change in credits, prerequisites and description

New Courses Approved:

- MBA562 Global Supply Chain Management (this course was approved contingent on receiving the proposal on the required form)

VI. Old Business
A. Council Member William Rosen inquired if any information is available on which programs will be under review according to the guidelines mentioned during Graduate Council Meeting No. 433. Associate Dean Killingbeck noted that he did not have a list of programs that might be reviewed, but that he would send to the Council electronic files detailing the numbers of students who have graduated over the last three years.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.