University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 438, 28 September 2009  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Lori Ciccomascolo, Nancy Eaton, Wayne Lee, Cynthia Willey-Temkin, Brian Gallagher, Beth Marcoux, Rebecca Robinson, Bill Rosen, John Szczepanski, Ryan Trimm, Graham Forrester, Henry Schwarzbach

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Interim Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 437 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Interim Dean Zawia announced the arrival of the Enhancement of Graduate Research and Scholarship grants. Graduate students can submit a proposal to receive a grant up to $1000. These funds may be used to support travel to conferences, to purchase items for specific projects, to defray publication costs or any number of ways to support research and study. Research and Grants is providing $10,000 and the Provost is providing $30,000 for a total of $40,000 in available funding.

B. Interim Dean Zawia noted that he would like the Graduate School to help build new interdisciplinary programs. He has started this by putting together a Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program meeting which will be held at the University Club on 29 September 2009 at 3:00pm. He invited Graduate Council Members to attend.

C. Interim Dean Zawia reported that the Graduate Program Directors meeting which was held on 22 September was a success.

D. Work is continuing on the initiative to bring two renown international speakers to visit, present to graduates and undergraduates, and hopefully build international collaborations.

E. Interim Dean noted that the Graduate Student Forum will be held on 20 October at 2:00pm in the Memorial Union Ballroom. It is an opportunity to hear the thoughts and opinions of our graduate students so we can find out how to enhance the graduate student experience at URI. All are invited.

F. Associate Dean Killingbeck introduced two Council Members who were not present at the first meeting, Graham Forrester of Natural Resource Science and Henry Schwarzbach of Business.

G. Council member Wayne Lee invited Council Members to the 22nd Annual Transportation Forum to be held 6 November 2009 to be held at the Chester Kirk Auditorium and the University Club. Information on that event was made available.
IV. Committee Reports

A. Brian Gallagher reviewed the Report of the Nominating Committee which lists the nominations to each committee. A copy of that report was given to each member of Council. Please note that Ryan Trimm was added to the Graduate Scholarship, Fellowship and Award Committee. Council approved the nominations.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated Council on the progress by the Graduate Manual Revision Committee. He briefly described how Council will receive the proposed changes for review.

C. Associate Dean Bibb reviewed the proposed change for Graduate Assistants in their terminal semester to be registered for fewer then the full time numbers of credits but still seen as full time students. The motion to change policy 12.34 of the graduate manual was approved.

VI. New Business

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated Council on which programs will be participating in the pilot group of assessment of graduate programs. This assessment is being seen as a chance to come up with a process that allows graduate degree programs to become better. He also announced that Peggy Maki will be speaking at the next Council meeting.

VII. Old Business

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.