University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 447, 27 September 2010  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Lori Ciccomascolo, Brian Gallagher, Mayrai Gindy, Terry Deeney, Rebecca Robinson, Naomi Mandel, Gerhard Muller, Gary Stoner, Henry Oppenheimer, John Szczepanski

Council Members Not Present: Mustafa Kulenovic, Graham Forrester, Mary Sullivan, David Rowley

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

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm by Interim Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 445 and No. 446 were approved with a note to check the department listed for the Graduate Faculty award of Professor Jodi Lisberger.

III. Announcements

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck reviewed the results of the review by the Office of Higher Education of the 2010 University of Rhode Island Plan for Learning Outcomes Assessment Program for graduate programs. Their review was positive throughout and as quoted in from the letter received by the University from Deborah Grossman-Garber that states, “Please extend my congratulations to URI’s Graduate School community on an excellent start in graduate level assessment”. The next phase is to have more data gathered and reports formulated. The a final plan will be made to determine who will be charged to review programs, how often that would happen, what the timing is, and how to stagger the reports so they do not come in all at once.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

Haibo He, Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical, Computer, Biomedical Engineering
Warren Prell, Adjunct Professor, Department of Geosciences

IV. Committees

A. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck put forth the proposed committees as nominated by the Nomination Committee using the Self-Nomination Forms. The motion to approve the committees listed below was passed.

i. New Graduate Program Committee - Professors Ciccomascolo, Muller, Oppenheimer, Robinson, and Sullivan.

ii. Graduate Curriculum Committee – Professors Gallagher, Deeney, Kulenovic, Mandel, Muller, Oppenheimer, Robinson, and Rowley.
iii. Graduate School Academic Policies, Standards and Appeals Committee – Professors Deeney, Forrester, and Mr. Szczepanski.
iv. Graduate Scholarship, Fellowship and Excellence Award Committee – Professors Forrester, Gindy, Kulenovic, Mandel, Muller, Oppenheimer, Robinson, Rowley, and Sullivan.
v. Graduate Program Assessment Committee – Professors Ciccomascolo, Gallagher, Gindy, Mandel, and Stoner.

V. Discussion
A. A motion was passed to adopt and test the Pearson Test of English Academic as one of the choices offered to our international applicants as a verification of English language proficiency. Representatives from Pearson met previously with Interim Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck and presented their test and its abilities to them. Council discussed the matter and moved to test the program by offering it as a choice of verification testing along with TOEFL and IELTS.

B. Discussions and ideas regarding policy issues related to the Graduate Manual sections 7.73 – 7.75 were exchanged by Council members. The topic being outcome for a student if he/she fails comprehensive exams twice. The wording of the exact policy was tabled until such a time that better verbiage is brought before Council.

VI. Presentation by Interim Dean Zawia: The Path Forward – A brief presentation sent out by the Council of Graduate Schools regarding the future of Diversity in Graduate Education.

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm