University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 457, 20 October 2011
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Gary Stoner, Brian Gallagher, Rebecca Robinson, Mary Sullivan, David Rowley, Naomi Mandel, Gerhard Muller, Terry Deeney, Martin Sadd, Larry Englander, Scott Martin, Megan O’Brien, Noel Burgess and Katherine Boden

Council Members Not Present: Mustafa Kulenovic, Graham Forrester, Kevin McClure and Henry Oppenheimer.

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Dr. Alycia Austin, Mrs. Michelle Grambley, Dr. John Stevenson, Ms. Elaine Finan, Ms. Lori Ciccomascolo

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 456 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia invited everyone to the inaugural Graduate School Retreat, 18 November 2011, noting its tremendous importance in improving graduate education. He discussed the format and reasoning for the day’s events, briefly. He strongly encouraged each member to come to this entire event. He also strongly encouraged every member of the Council to come meet Debra Stewart just prior to the Faculty Senate reception, on 17 November at the UClub at 4:30 pm. This may be the only chance to meet and speak with Debra Stewart before her talk. He asked that every member attend her lecture after the reception (at 6 pm) and to encourage others in the campus community to attend as well.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced that the newest evolution of the Graduate School Manual is available on the Graduate School website. He asked that anyone with edits or concerns about the new Manual, speak with or send the issues to him.

C. Associate Dean Killingbeck reviewed the new format for submission of course proposals. He noted that there were minor changes to the forms themselves and that the forms, once filled out, should now be sent to Sheila at the Faculty Senate. This new system should alleviate problems, confusion and delays.

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

Caroline Gottschalk Druschke, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing and Rhetoric
Edward Grove, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics
Kenneth Payne, Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Marine Affairs
Robert Pockalny, Adjunct Associate Research Scientist, Department of Oceanography
Yiyong Luo, Adjunct Associate Research Scientist, Department of Oceanography

IV. Policies and Procedures

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck introduced John Stevenson, Elaine Finan and Lori Ciccomascolo, each of whom has been integral in the assessment of graduate programs at URI. A rubric for defense assessment and measurement of student outcomes was handed out and discussed. This would be helpful for programs and faculty to identify expectations of students at the defense and to give students an understanding of what will be expected of them. Concerns were raised that this would be used as a standard of judgment for a successful defense. Mention was made about when to introduce this type of rubric, what stage of the thesis/dissertation process. One member noted that if such a format is used to assess students, especially early in the thesis process, the information gleaned from this evaluation should be presented to the student. Dean Zawia and others stressed that this was created as a tool to gather data and assist with strengthening programs going forward. This matter will be revised and brought back to the Council. Recommendations and comments should be sent to Associate Dean Killingbeck.

V. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee

Changes Approved
- BUS 449 Entrepreneurship
- CMD 460 Introduction to Speech and Language Disorders
- CMD 465 Clinical Methods in Communicative Disorders
- EDS 500 Inclusive Educational Practices
- EDS 501 Collaboration and Co-teaching
- EDS 503 Positive Behavior Supports
- EDS 504 Research in Special Education
- EDS 507 Supervised Practicum: Secondary and Middle Level
- EDS 508 Supervised Practicum: Secondary/Middle Level
- EDS 511 Literacy and Language Instruction
- EDS 513 Assessment for Secondary Special Educators
- EDS 516 Teaching Secondary Students with Mild Disabilities
- EDS 517 Transition Planning for Post-School Outcomes
- LSC 514 Information Policy
- LSC 515 Information Ethics and Intellectual Freedom
- LSC 530 Reading Interest of Children
- LSC 531 Reading Interest of Young Adults
- LSC 533 Digital Resources for Children and Teens
LSC 596 School Library Media Practicum and Seminar
WRT 533 Graduate Writing in the Life Sciences
ENG 999 Methods of Teaching Literature

New Courses Approved
EVS 550 Advanced Ecology
BPS 555 Protein Molecular Modeling for Biomedical Sciences

Tabled
MIC 422 Biotechnology of Industrial Microorganisms
LSC 520 School Library Media Services
MBA 516 Professional Writing, Speaking and Presenting
MBA 517 Business Foundations I
MBA 518 Business Foundations II
MBA 519 Customer and Project analysis
MBA 520 Objectives and Metrics
MBA 521 Situation Analysis and Solution Development
MBA 522 Business Process Improvement and Sustainability
MBA 523 Risk Assessment, Change and Control
MBA 524 Innovation, Process and Performance
MBA 525 Business Innovation Process
MBA 526 Product and Service Management
MBA 527 Protection Contracts and Intellectual Property
MBA 528 Innovation Enterprises and Information Technology
MBA 529 Career Planning

VI. Old Business

A. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck addressed the issue of allowing Adjunct Professors to serve as major advisors; both positives and negatives were discussed. Whereas there may be benefits to students there are some serious drawbacks as well. Some drawbacks include lack of commitment, accountability and understanding of policy and rules that can come with faculty advisement by professors outside of the URI community. Some members discussed the previously mentioned idea of co-advising, with one member of the co-advisors being a tenured or tenure track professor at URI, to offset the drawbacks. After much discussion of the pros and cons, a motion was made and seconded to approve the following statement

Adjunct Faculty cannot serve as sole Major Advisors on thesis or dissertation committees.

A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.
B. Associate Dean Killingbeck gave a brief recount of an issue involving the lack of definition in the language governing the level of coursework required of graduate students to maintain “continuous enrollment”. Proposed wording to clearly define the issue was offered.

4.40 Continuous Enrollment
Graduate students are **required** to remain continuously enrolled in **graduate-level credits** until they have completed all requirements and have received their degrees.

A motion was made to table the proposed wording (underlined above) for further consideration. The result was 6 votes of “aye”, 4 of “nay” and 3 abstentions. The matter was tabled and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

**VII. New Business** – Due to time constraints, this matter was not addressed.

**VIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm**