University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 461, 27 February 2012  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Gary Stoner, Kevin McClure, Rebecca Robinson, Naomi Mandel, Gerhard Muller, Terry Deeney, Megan O’Brien, Scott Martin, Pete August, Mayrai Gindy, Mustafa Kulenovic, Henry Oppenheimer, Brian Gallagher, Mary Sullivan and Larry Englander.

Council Members Not Present: David Rowley, Noel Burgess and Katherine Boden.

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Dr. John Stevenson and Michelle Grambley.

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Associate Dean Killingbeck.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 460 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the recent additions to the Graduate Faculty:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LELAND JACKSON</td>
<td>ELECTRICAL, COMP, &amp; BIOMED ENG</td>
<td>1/27/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>STACEY LEICHT YOUNT</td>
<td>BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>2/1/2012</td>
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<td>BRICE LOOSE</td>
<td>GSO</td>
<td>2/2/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>AARON BRADSHAW</td>
<td>CIVIL &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL ENG</td>
<td>2/10/2012</td>
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<td>VINKA CRAVER</td>
<td>CIVIL &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL ENG</td>
<td>2/10/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>AISLING CAFFREY</td>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>2/17/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALANA BIBEAU</td>
<td>WOMEN’S STUDIES</td>
<td>2/17/2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERIK LOOMIS</td>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>2/20/2012</td>
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B. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated the Council about the nominations for the Excellence in Doctoral Research Awards and gave a brief discussion on the review process. There are currently 6 non-STEM and 4 STEM students nominated. Given that there was some discussion about the nature of some nominated abstracts, he asked that some members of the Council be willing to take on the added responsibility of judging the STEM criteria of certain submissions.

C. Associate Dean Killingbeck asked John Stevenson to give a brief synopsis of the progress being made in utilizing and analyzing the thesis/dissertation proposal and defense rubrics. The information gleaned from these pilot programs will be used in graduate student learning outcomes assessment. John asked for the Council members to consider volunteering to pilot the rubrics and to feel free to pass the invitation on to others in their departments. He also added that the rubric is open to adaptation to the specifics of individual programs.
D. John Stevenson added a discussion topic to the agenda to discuss and review the phase-in of the upcoming program assessment planning on campus. He notified the members about the timeframe that assessment plans will be due. There will be two large cohorts, one will have their information due in Spring of 2013 and the other in Spring 2014.

IV. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee

**Changes Approved**
None

**New Courses Approved**
NEU 581/582 Neurosciences Colloquium
NEU 599 Master’s Thesis Research
NEU 699 Neuroscience Doctoral Dissertation Research
NRS 518 Echohydrology

**Tabled**
MIC 422 Biotechnology of Industrial Microorganisms
MLS 580 Quality Management Systems I: Org. and Leadership
MLS 581 Clinical Research
MLS 571 Biotechnology Product Evaluation and Development
NEU 501 Introduction to the Neurosciences
MBA 570X Hedge Fund Management and Investment Banking

**Additional Curricular Matters**
The College of Arts and Sciences requested a change in total program credits for the MLIS degree. The change is a reduction from 42 at present to 36 and it was made in an attempt to make the program more competitive with its peers. There will be no negative impact to students based on the requested reduction. The Council approved this unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck brought up three questions that needed to be addressed regarding Graduate Faculty Status (GFS) policy. First discussed was whether GFS should automatically apply to newly hired tenure-track faculty. Concerns were raised regarding the fact that the terminal degree in some disciplines is not a PhD and that the wording may need amendment to adequately represent the diversity of terminal degrees at the university. A motion was made to accept the following wording
Newly hired tenure-track faculty with a terminal degree are automatically nominated to Graduate Faculty.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The second matter discussed was whether GFS should be enduring once granted or if it should be removable. Concerns were raised that faculty need to demonstrate currency of research and scholarship to retain GFS. The following motion was made

The Graduate Council recommends to the Faculty Senate that continual Graduate Faculty Status become a part of the review process for all ranks of Graduate Faculty. Non-renewals will be reviewed by the dean of the Graduate School.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The third discussion topic addressed was whether emeritus and research faculty should be allowed to act as major professors. A motion was made that addressed this issue

Emeritus faculty and research professors can take on new students only as co-major professors.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

B. Student enrollment hold initiative - Due to time constraints, this matter was not addressed.

C. A.C.E. Language Institutes - Due to time constraints, this matter was not addressed.

VI. Policy Issues and Initiatives –

A. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck asked the Council to consider the plausibility of undergraduate degrees from the University of Phoenix as acceptable credentials for acceptance into graduate programs at URI. After some brief discussion, it was the group consensus that the governing body of accreditation has ruled that these degrees are accredited and should therefore be accepted without prejudice.

B. Last Semester Status - Due to time constraints, this matter was not addressed.

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

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm