University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 464, 10 September 2012
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Terry Deeney, Peter August, Brian Gallagher, Mayrai Gindy, Larry Englander, Stephen Kogut, Kevin McClure, Gerhard Muller, Henry Oppenheimer, Rainer Lohmann, Gary Stoner, Denise Coppa, Scott Martin, Evelyn Sterne, Kyle Scully, Noel Burgess

Council Members Not Present: Michael Pennell

Others Present: Dean Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Megan Verry, Alycia Mosley, John Stevenson

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 463 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia welcomed the Council back for a new year. He briefly spoke about how the Council works as an advisory body to the Graduate School and the progress made over the last few years with the help of the Council. He hopes that the good work will continue this year. Members introduced themselves to the rest of Council.

B. Dean Zawia recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Appointment Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIGRID BERKA</td>
<td>LANGUAGES (GERMAN)</td>
<td>4/27/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRIS ANDERSON</td>
<td>ENV &amp; NAT RESOURCE ECONOMICS</td>
<td>4/27/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>KEVIN McGARIGAL</td>
<td>BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>5/4/2012</td>
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<td>ADAM SUMMER</td>
<td>BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</td>
<td>6/21/2012</td>
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<td>PETER CARIANI</td>
<td>ELECTRICAL, COMP, &amp; BIOMED ENG</td>
<td>6/21/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATHERINE DeCESARE</td>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>6/21/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>KARL ASPELUND</td>
<td>TEXTILES, FASH. MERCH &amp; DESIGN</td>
<td>2/29/2012</td>
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<td>WEI LU</td>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>7/3/2012</td>
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<td>STEPHAN SCHOLL</td>
<td>CHEMICAL ENGINEERING</td>
<td>7/30/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>AYMAN EL-KATTAN</td>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>8/2/2012</td>
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C. Dean Zawia informed Council about the announcement for the Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards (EGRA) and spoke briefly about how students can benefit from these.

D. Dean Zawia announced that the Graduate School Strategic Plan is to be unveiled at the upcoming 2012-2013 Graduate Program Directors Meeting. Planning is underway to host a ½ day meeting off-site. This meeting will most likely be held in mid to late October. More details will be forthcoming on this event.

E. Associate Dean Killingbeck updates Council about the work being done to revise all of the forms being used by students and departments. As many forms as possible are going to be online and use electronic signatures, making it easier for students and departments to get information to the Graduate School in the fastest and easiest way possible. He will send these forms to Council via email for their comments and questions before they are rolled out to the general public.

IV. Committees

A. Nominating Committee
   i. A self-nomination form was given to each member asking for their top three choices as to which subcommittees they would like to participate on. Associate Dean Killingbeck asked for three volunteers to be a part of the nominating committee to review this information with Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck in order to determine each subcommittee. The three volunteers were Denise Coppa, Brian Gallagher, and Kevin McClure.
   ii. Dean Zawia reviewed the charges to, and goals of each of the committees. Members then determined their top choices and forwarded their self-nomination forms to Megan Yakey.
   iii. Dean Zawia introduced the need for an ad hoc committee regarding the selection of a keynote speaker for the graduate commencement. He asked the students on Council their thoughts on what they would like to have for a speaker. Students agreed that they would like to have the choice of either an inside speaker or an outside speaker, as long as the speaker is interesting. Council took a poll, which concluded that they would like to see that there be a choice for either an internal speaker or external speaker for graduate commencement and not be locked into one or the other. The students suggested that they could bring this up at the next Graduate Students Association meeting to find out the feelings of the graduate student population in general. If this is determined to be an
important topic to them, an ad hoc committee will be formed to meet with the Provost regarding this topic.

V. Graduate School Manual

A. Changes to section 9.21 were discussed. It was determined that suggestions for rewording would be emailed to Associate Dean Killingbeck who would rework the suggested changes to present to Council at a later date.

B. Council voted to delete Section 8.42.1 from the Graduate School Manual.

VI. University Manual

Associate Dean Killingbeck reviewed a draft of Section 4.70.10, which includes the edits suggested at our April 2012 meeting. The draft is as follows:

4.70.10 The Graduate Faculty. Graduate Faculty Status is afforded to faculty members of the University who establish and maintain significant scholarly activity in their field. Its importance lies in the fact that it is a requirement for serving on the research or examination committees of graduate students. All faculty are eligible to be nominated for Graduate Faculty Status by the Chair or Director of the department, school, or program in which they have a formal appointment. A letter of nomination submitted to the Graduate School along with a current curriculum vitae of the faculty member serves to initiate the review process. Nomination is automatic for newly hired tenure-track faculty. The dean of the Graduate School will grant Graduate Faculty Status. Criteria for appointment to the Graduate Faculty focus on the educational background of the faculty member, their past and present scholarly accomplishments, and their ability to serve as capable mentors of students pursuing graduate degrees. The expectation is that faculty a) have earned the highest degree available in their discipline, b) have published or produced products that contribute to their discipline or have distinguished themselves as leading practitioners in their discipline, and c) have the talent to be effective educators to students of the University enrolled in graduate degree programs. Periodic review of Graduate Faculty Status is required. Renewal will be reviewed during each normally scheduled College review of a faculty member. Recommendations for removal of Graduate Faculty Status will be initiated by the Dean of the College in which the faculty member resides, and will be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School. All recommendations to terminate Graduate Faculty Status will be reviewed by the Dean of the Graduate School and presented to the Graduate Council for a vote to approve or reject the recommendation.
Council discussed the draft and offered suggestions on certain changes to be included before being proposed to Faculty Senate. Council voted to approve the draft, with fifteen in favor, one opposed.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm