University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 465, 24 September 2012
MINUTES

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

Council Members Not Present: Mayrai Gindy

Others Present: Dean Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Megan Yakey

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 464 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Natallia Katenka</td>
<td>Computer Sci and Statistics</td>
<td>8/17/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gavino Puggioni</td>
<td>Computer Sci and Statistics</td>
<td>8/17/2012</td>
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<td>Valerie Baker</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>9/17/2012</td>
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<td>Lauren Mandel</td>
<td>GS Library and Info Studies</td>
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B. Dean Zawia informed Council of the two Distinguished Alumni Awardees for the Graduate School who will be honored at the award banquet in Newport on 27 October 2012. This year we are honoring Carrie Byron, nominated by her major professor Barry Costa-Pierce, and Matthew Ortelova, nominated by his major professor Nedra Reynolds. He started a dialog with Council regarding how these awardees are chosen each year as well as asking for thoughts from Council regarding how to go forward with the nomination(s) in coming years, as we may not be able to nominate two awardees in the future. Some of the ideas put forth included alternating between STEM and non-STEM as well as possibly including master’s degree recipients to open up the pool. All suggestions and ideas will be considered for next year’s nominations.

C. Brian Gallagher spoke to Council regarding the Learning Commons renovation that was completed this summer. While much of the renovation was geared towards undergrads, there are some areas that graduates may find helpful such as the practice and presentation room, which provides a screen,
projector, media cabinet, and area for students to practice giving presentations as well as an area for them to have an audience if they so choose. One other service being offered is the laptop check out, here students can check out on of 9 PC’s or 2 Mac Laptops for up to three hours at a time. He also mentioned a new Digital Initiatives Librarian named Julia Lovett who will be holding an Introduction to DigitalCommons@URI at 2PM on October 17th. All are invited to attend.

D. Associate Dean Killingbeck asked Council for more feedback regarding the revised Graduate School forms. It is important to make sure that any changes or suggestions are considered before these forms are unveiled to the rest of the University. A few reviews have been received but we look forward to as many coming in as possible. Ultimately we would like to have all the forms on a web-based system, something like the IRB-net.

IV. Committees

A. Nominating Committee

The committee met and designated the charges below:

**New Graduate Program Committee**
- Pete August, NRS
- Denise Coppa, Nursing
- Kogut Stephen, Pharmacy
- Kevin McClure, Comm Stud
- Henry Oppenheimer, Business
- Eve Sterne, History
- Kyle Scully, INP

**Graduate Curriculum Committee**
- Larry Englander, Plant Sci
- Brian Gallagher, Library
- Rainer Lohmann, GSO
- Michael Pennell, Writ and Rhet
- Gary Stoner, Psych

**Graduate School Academic Policies, Standards and Appeals**
- Mayrai Gindy, Civ Eng
- Stephen Kogut, Pharmacy
- Gerhard Muller, Physics
- Henry Oppenheimer, Business
- Gary Stoner, Psych
- Noel Burgess, Labor
Graduate Scholarship, Fellowship and Excellence Award
Committee
Pete August NRS
Terry Deeney Education
Gerhard Muller Physics
Michael Pennell Writ and Rhet
Eve Sterne History

Graduate Program Assessment Committee
Denise Coppa Nursing
Brian Gallagher Library
Mayrai Gindy Civ Eng
Rainer Lohmann GSO
Kevin McClure Comm Stud
Scott Martin Psych-GSA

B. Ad-hoc Commencement Committee
It was decided that the students would meet with Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck to discuss the topic of a speaker for the Graduate School Commencement. At which point a meeting will be set between the students and Provost. The Council feels that they would like to send a letter of support for the students' request to the Provost. The Following motion was made: The Council 1) strongly supports the idea of having a commencement speaker 2) supports having that speaker be internal or external and 3) would like to be a part of the process, along with the graduate students, of choosing a speaker. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. Graduate School Manual

Changes to section 9.21 were revisited. The following changes were passed unanimously:

9.21. For students who have received the master's degree in the same field of study or in a closely related field, all coursework beyond the master's degree towards the doctorate must be at the 500 or 600 level. For students without a master's degree who enroll in a doctoral program, but who complete a master's degree along the way to the doctorate, 400-level courses may be applied only to the master's degree Program of Study. For doctoral students who do not have a master's degree, and who do not earn a master's degree along the way to the doctorate, up to 12 credits of 400-level courses may be applied to the doctoral Program of Study.
VI. **University Manual**

Associate Dean Killingbeck revisited the draft of Section 4.70.10 from the 10 September Graduate Council Meeting that includes revisions from that meeting. After careful consideration by Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck they suggested further comments and opened the floor to discussion. In question was whether Council should be involved in matters of Graduate Faculty Status renewal. Council felt they should not be involved and proposed that Associate Dean Killingbeck re-edit the draft as follows to reflect this change. Council then unanimously passed the edited wording below:

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. 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. Requests for non-renewal 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 who will then approve or reject the request.

VII. **Defense Committees**

A discussion was opened regarding inside and outside members of graduate student committees for colleges that may not have departments (e.g. GSO) or that have graduate programs separate from departments (CELS). The suggestion was made that the Council consider abandoning 'inside and outside' designations. The topic will be revisited at the next Council meeting.

VIII. **Old Business**

IX. **New Business**

X. **Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm**