University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 468, 10 December 2012  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Terry Deeney, Peter August, Brian Gallagher, Mayrai Gindy, Larry Englander, 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: Stephen Kogut

Others Present: Dean Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Megan Yakey, Alycia Mosley Austin

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

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 467 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

Stephen Licht Ocean Engineering 11/20/2012

B. Student representatives Scott Martin and Noel Burgess updated Council on their meeting with the Provost regarding a Graduate Commencement speaker. The Provost expressed concerns regarding Administrations availability to host an independent speaker given the time constraints of commencement weekend. He feels that a concerted effort needs to be made to make sure any outside speaker is made to feel honored, respected, and appreciated. He felt it was important that the speaker have a chance to meet at least briefly with the Provost and President. He asked that the students come back with a proposal, outlining events and ideas to support these concerns, if the concerns were all met he suggested there may be some funding available to help covers the expenses of an outside speaker. The students agreed and offered suggestions on events that could serve this purpose, including an honorary brunch before commencement on Saturday or a dinner Friday evening. It was suggested at Council that the students meet first with Megan Yakey to outline ideas, followed by a meeting with Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck to put together a proposal which will be presented at the next Council meeting.

C. Dean Zawia, Associate Dean Killingbeck, and Alycia Mosley Austin reported on their recent trip to Washington DC to attend the annual conference of the
Council of Graduate Schools. Dean Zawia spoke about MOOC’s (Massive Open Online Courses) and the requests of NEASC regarding the proposed amount of time courses not being offered remain in the catalog. Associate Dean Killingbeck reported about discussions he took part in regarding Graduate Faculty Status and inside/outside members. Alycia spoke about Diversity, Interdisciplinary Education, and Professional Development. She noted that our problems are not exclusive to URI, but universal across most graduate schools.

D. Dean Zawia reported on the EGRA winners and noted that due to the efficiency of the reviewers we are able to give out the awards faster then we ever have before. Council asked for the winners to be posted online.

IV. Old Business

Associate Dean Killingbeck opened a discussion on ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ members on a student’s program committee. Council felt the current policy was adequate as it is. A motion was made to keep this policy and have the College of the Environment and Life Sciences follow the policies currently in place for the Colleges of Business, Nursing, and Pharmacy, and the Graduate School of Oceanography (units without departments). Specifically, the minimum requirement for a program committee is two members of the Graduate Faculty from CELS, and one from outside of CELS. The motion passed with 14 Approvals, 1 Opposed, and 1 Abstention.

V. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee

Changes Approved
BIO/GEO 572 Advanced Evolutionary Biology

New Courses Approved
BPS 557X Modern Spectroscopic Techniques in Drug Discovery
PHP 685 Pharmacoeconomic Methods and Applications

Tabled
ENG 910 Seminars in Professional Studies

B. New Program Committee

DNP Post BS entry – Passed Unanimously
GSO Fifth Year MO Program – Passed Unanimously
VI. Graduate School Manual

A. Section 4.70.10 of the University Manual

A revision of Section 4.70.10 of the University Manual was discussed thoroughly by the Graduate Council at five meetings. The revision below was passed with 15 Approvals, 1 Opposed, 0 Abstentions by the Council.

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. Graduate Faculty Status is automatic for newly hired tenure-track faculty who have achieved the highest degree in their discipline. Appointment or retention of Graduate Faculty Status will be approved for faculty who have a) earned the highest degree available in their discipline, b) published or produced products that contribute to their discipline or have distinguished themselves as leading practitioners in their discipline, and c) demonstrated their effectiveness as educators and mentors of students in graduate degree programs. Periodic review of Graduate Faculty Status is required. Renewal will be reviewed during each regular, mandated College review of a faculty member (1-, 2-, or 4-year intervals, depending on rank). 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 for review. The Graduate Council will then approve or reject the request.

VII. Older Business

A. Section 8.81.62 of the University Manual – It was suggested that any further review of this matter be tabled until the Faculty Senate Executive Committee reviews this further. Council agreed with this.

B. ‘Last Semester Status’ discussion was tabled due to time constraints

VIII. New Business

Associate Dean Killingbeck opened a discussion regarding a faculty member’s request for a graduate-wide policy change or a departmental exception to extend the maximum time allowed between the written and oral comprehensive exams from 4 weeks to 16 weeks. After discussion a motion was made to retain the current policy as stated in the Graduate Manual that was approved unanimously.
IX. Meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm