University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 475, 28 October 2013
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Peter August, Denise Coppa, Larry Englander, David Faflik, Michael Greenfield, Marc Hutchison, Stephen Kogut, Julia Lovett, Scott Martin, Libby Miles, Kathy Peno, Kyle Scully, Daniel Sheinin, Evelyn Sterne, Lubos Thoma, Ben Young

Council Members Not Present: Rainer Lohmann

Others Present: Dean Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Shandra Pelagio, Alycia Mosley Austin

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:01pm by Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 474 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty:

JOHN-DAVID SWANSON BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES 9/24/2013
KEUNHAN (KAY) PARK MECH, IND, & SYST ENGINEERING 9/24/2013
JOHN DICECCO ELECTRICAL, COMP, & BIOMED ENG 10/4/2013

B. Dean Zawia introduced Libby Miles who will be replacing Kevin McClure as a representative from the College of Arts and Sciences.

C. Dean Zawia discussed an amendment to the minutes from meeting No. 472 on 22 April 2013. The original minutes did not have an additional announcement, item F, that was added to the agenda after it had been distributed. Council voted unanimously to approve the amendment below to the minutes of meeting no. 472:

F. Dean Zawia reported on the results of the Faculty Senate meeting that took place last week on 18 April 2013. The proposal from the Graduate Council to eliminate confusion regarding Graduate Faculty Status by replacing Section 4.70.10 in the University Manual with new wording approved by the Council was tabled by the Chair of the Faculty Senate after a period of discussion. During the Senate discussion, it was noted that ‘clinical’ and ‘research’ faculty were not mentioned in the first sentence of the proposed Section 4.70.10. The Council moved, and approved unanimously, the addition of these two faculty types to Section 4.40.10. The first sentence in that section now begins “The Graduate Faculty at the University of Rhode Island shall be adjunct, clinical,
emeritus, research, or tenure-track faculty who have ... .” Dean Zawia noted that there was no provision in the Graduate Faculty Status policy approved by the Council and introduced the following new section for consideration.

“4.70.15 Removal of Graduate Faculty Status. In addition to the College-initiated requests for non-continuation of Graduate Faculty status (4.70.14), the Dean of the Graduate School, after consultation with the dean, chair, and faculty member involved, may also request removal of Graduate Faculty status in cases where graduate students were put at risk by consistently poor mentoring. Such requests would be submitted to the Graduate Council. The Graduate Council will then approve or reject the request.”

A motion was made, and approved unanimously, to add this section as worded to the Graduate Faculty Status policy.

D. Dean Zawia updated Council on the Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards. There are 65 complete proposals and they have been evenly distributed among council members for review in Sakai. Dean Zawia was able to secure funding from the new Vice-President of Research at the same level as they have contributed in the past. He also described the procedure of how the proposals continue after they are reviewed and scored. The list of the awardees will be brought to Council.

E. Dean Zawia asked for feedback on the Graduate Faculty Summit. Council members indicated that they and members of their colleges would have attended if it were on-campus due to scheduling. They would like more notice before the event occurs. A suggestion was made to consider having the Summit during the January intersession. Another suggestion was made to call for topics of discussion in the semester previous to the Summit so that people who cannot be there can be represented. A motion was made to pilot having the Graduate Faculty Summit on-campus next year. The motion was approved with 11 yay, 4 nay and no abstentions.

IV. Committees

Curriculum Committee

New Courses Approved
ELE 425 Renewable and Efficient Electric Power Systems (3)
OCG (GEO,CVE) 519 Marine Environmental Organic Chemistry (3)
CMD 586X Multisensory Instruction in Language and Literacy (3)
NEU 504 Neuroethics (1)

Course Changes Approved
OCG 555 Modern Oceanographic Imaging and Mapping
NUR 601 Foundations of Nursing Science
Additional Curricular Matters
1. Chemistry - A motion was made and approved to review the proposed changes to the graduation requirements in Chemistry by degree instead of as a whole.
   a. Changes to Ph.D Degree- approved, 1 opposed
   b. Changes to Masters Degree (Thesis Option) – tabled
   c. Changes to Masters Degree (Non-Thesis) – approved
2. Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program – tabled
3. Business Administration – tabled
4. Nursing- (added to agenda at meeting) – Ph.D. requirements- request to reduce the number of required coursework credits from 43 to 40 dropping the total credits needed form 92 to 89. The motion was approved.

V. Topics for Discussion
   A. Proposal for a Pilot Assistantships Program to Attract Outstanding New Students – The first round of nominations for prospective students to be in this pilot program will be due February 1st. As some programs review the applications and do interviews after the February 1 deadline, a second group of nominations can be given by March 1st.
   B. Certificate Programs – table due to time restraints

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm