University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 482, 9 September 2014  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Pete August, Denise Coppa, David Faflik, Michael Greenfield, Stephen Kogut, Rainer Lohmann, Julia Lovett, Evelyn Sterne, Devon Swanson, Lubos Thoma

Council Members Not Present, Scott McWilliams, Libby Miles, Daniel Sheinin

Others Present: Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Megan Yakey, John Stevenson

I. Call to order at 2:05PM by Associate Dean Killingbeck

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 481 were approved

III. Announcements

A. Welcome and introduction of the members of the 2014-2015 Graduate Council

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck recognized recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

WILLIAM RENEHAN  PHARMACY  4/22/2014
ADAM MOORE  EDUCATION  4/23/2014
YING ZHANG  CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY  4/23/2014
LESLIE KEALHOFER-KEMP  MODERN/CLASSICAL LANGUAGES  5/09/2014
JESPER RAAKJAER  MARINE AFFAIRS  11/10/2011
changed to ..........  ENV & NAT RESOURCE ECONOMICS  6/18/2014
ALVIN BACH  PHARMACY  6/30/2014
BROOKE FLAMMANG  BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  7/28/2014
BRYAN DEWSBURY  BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  8/01/2014

C. Associate Dean Killingbeck proposed changes to thesis/dissertation proposal forms to include the addition of Responsible Conduct of Research Compliance. Council suggested that a memo go out to faculty that they should do this training as well. The revised Library Rights Statement that had been drafted by Council members August and Lovett was also introduced and will be put into play this fall.

D. Associate Dean Killingbeck invited Council to suggest names for a speaker for the 2015 Graduate School Commencement.

E. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the winner of the 2014 “Rising Star” Award who will be honored at this year’s Distinguished Achievement Awards celebration. This year we honor Wilson Okello; a 2012 Human Development & Family Studies/College Student Personnel graduate.
F. It was announced that the call for proposals for the 2014-2015 Enhancement for Graduate Research Awards (EGRA’s) would be going out shortly.

G. The 2014 Graduate Faculty Summit will be held on campus this year. We are looking at venues and dates, but believe it will be one of the two reading days in December, either the 9th or the 10th.

IV. Committees

A. The various charges to, and goals of committees for this year’s Council were reviewed. Members were asked to select 3 committees and rank them by level of interest.

B. Council members were asked if anyone would like to join the Nomination Committee. Council members Peter August and Eve Sterne graciously volunteered.

V. Topics for Discussion

Council reviewed the draft of the Fall 2014 Graduate School Manual and suggested minor revisions and rewording to the policies that were discussed at length and voted upon in past Graduate Council meetings. Following these reviews Council voted to approve all changes and go forward with publishing the document.

VI. Old Business

A. The issue of reviewer’s scores on nominations and applications for competitive programs such as Graduate School fellowships was raised. A request was made to develop and implement ways to ‘standardize’ or ‘equalize’ scores such that differences in perception among reviewers as to what individual scores represent (i.e., is an 8 out of 10 a ‘high’ ranking, or just an ‘average’ ranking?) do not negatively affect overall rankings of individual students.

VII. New Business

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck asked for Council to think of topics they would like to discuss this year. Council member August suggested that consideration be given to ways to rapidly interject approved policies into the Graduate School Manual.

VI. Adjournment 4:03pm