University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 483, 29 September 2014
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Pete August, Denise Coppa, Michael Greenfield, Stephen Kogut, Julia Lovett, Karen McCurdy, Scott McWilliams, Libby Miles, Evelyn Sterne, Devon Swanson, Lubos Thoma, Brenton DeBoef, Matt Porter, Matt Luby, Jacqueline Britto

Council Members Not Present: David Faflik, Rainer Lohmann, Daniel Sheinin

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

I. Call to order at 2:01PM by Dean Zawia

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 482 were approved

III. Announcements

A. Introduction of the members of the 2014-2015 Graduate Council

B. Dean Zawia recognized recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

DAN CODIGA GSO 9/10/2014
STEPHEN KENNEDY ELECTRICAL, COMP, & BIOMED ENG 9/12/2014
KUNAL MANKODIYA ELECTRICAL, COMP, & BIOMED ENG 9/12/2014
GARY WIKFORS FISH, ANIM, & VET SCIENCE 9/15/2014
JOHN JENSEN HISTORY 9/17/2014

C. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated Council on the Responsible Conduct of Research compliance. This RCR compliance will be effective for students who matriculate in, or after, Fall 2014.

D. Dean Zawia informed Council that the call for proposals for the Enhancement for Graduate Research Awards has gone out. The Deadline is October 20\textsuperscript{th} at 4PM.

E. Dean Zawia announced that the Graduate Faculty Summit is to be held on Campus, during one of the two December Reading Days. It will most likely be held at Hardge Forum on either the 9\textsuperscript{th} or 10\textsuperscript{th} of December.

F. Associate Dean Killingbeck put out a request for a Council Member to serve as a representative on the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee.

G. Alycia Mosley asked Council to submit ideas to her for the Multicultural Competence Training/Certification. She indicated that the format for this
Multicultural training will most likely follow the format of the RCR. She requested Council to email her with those ideas.

IV. Committees

A. The Nominating Committee put forward the proposed membership for the various committees. They are as follows –

   a. New Graduate Program Committee - Faflik, Kogut, August, and McCurdy
   b. Graduate Curriculum Committee – DeBoef, Hutchinson, Lohmann, Sheinin
   c. GS Academic Policies, Standards, and Appeals - Coppa, McWilliams, and Thoma
   d. Graduate Scholarship, Fellowship, and Excellence Award Committee- All members of Council except students.
   e. Graduate Program Assessment Committee- Greenfield, Lovett, Miles, and Sterne

B. Dean Zawia asked for nominations for this year’s Graduate Commencement Speaker.

V. Topics for Discussion – Graduate Manual changes

A. A motion to amend section 3.23 was approved: 12 for, 1 against, no abstentions. Karen McCurdy, Peter August and Keith Killingbeck will work together to finalize the wording of the last sentence. [Post-meeting note: the final sentence added to 3.23 is this -- Graduate programs seeking admission for a prospective student with an undergraduate grade point average below 2.5 may appeal the denial to admit directly to the Dean of the Graduate School who will make the final decision on the suitability of the candidate for graduate studies.]

3.23. To be accepted into a graduate program, applicants are expected to have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) in their undergraduate work, or in previous graduate work, and have satisfactory scores on the appropriate, designated nationally administered test(s). Applicants with undergraduate averages below 3.0, but not less than 2.5, may be admitted based upon other evidence of academic potential, i.e., satisfactory performance in post-baccalaureate work (see Sec. 3.30), relevant professional experience as evidenced by publications or letters of recommendation, and/or high scores in the standardized tests referred to above.

B. A motion to amend section 3.33 was approved unanimously.

3.33. Advanced Standing Credits: Advanced standing refers to credits taken at the University of Rhode Island by a non-matriculating student or by a student in one degree program before formally beginning another program. In instances
where a student plans to take a course or courses while in one degree program so as to apply those credits to a more advanced degree at a later date, the student must request and receive written prior approval from the Dean of the Graduate School before enrolling in said course(s). Credits earned at the University of Rhode Island by a non-matriculating student may be applied as advanced standing toward degree requirements only upon the recommendation of the student's major professor and the Graduate Program Director and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. To be eligible, these credits must have been earned within a seven-year period before matriculating into the degree program in question.

C. A motion to amend sections 7.44.35 and 7.56.1 was approved unanimously.

The required RCR training can be accomplished by: 1) Completing the online CITI training, 2) complete an approved course that covers research ethics, or 3) attend and participate in three RCR seminars sponsored by the Office of Research Integrity.

D. A motion, regarding section 7.57.1.2 Part II, to have the policies of physical presence (in lieu of participation via and audio/video feed like Skype) during oral comprehensive exams to mimic those of the thesis/dissertation was approved with 1 abstention. A second motion was made to require that a student be physically present at their defense was approved unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A. The topic of transparency for rating scales for items like the EGRA reviews making sure that the rating is done fairly across the board was tabled due to time constraints.

VII. New Business

VI. Adjournment at 3:56pm