University of Rhode Island
The Graduate School
Graduate Council Meeting No. 496, 1 February 2016
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Peter August, Denise Coppa, Michael Greenfield, Marc Hutchison, Robert Laforge, Beth Leonardo, Julia Lovett, Lindsay McLennan, Abran Salazar, Daniel Sheinin, Angela Slitt, Lubos Thoma, Jean Walton, Karen Wishner

Not Present: Jacqueline Britto, Elizabeth Kohr, Karen McCurdy, Scott McWilliams

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Andrea Rusnock, Megan Yakey, Alycia Mosley Austin, Kristin Johnson

I. Call to order at 2:02 PM by Dean Zawia.

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 495 were approved

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia noted that the call for nominations for the Scholarships, Fellowships, and Diversity Awards have been announced and encouraged Council to remind their colleges. Also presented will be the Excellence in PhD Research awards, the DAA Rising Star Award, and the Assistantship letters will be released this week.

B. Dean Zawia informed Council of the new staff members in the Graduate School. We welcomed Linda Conte, Lisa Furlong, and Jane Miller. We will also be hiring one more person to work in records and enrollment shortly.

C. Dean Zawia noted the recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIANE THULIER</td>
<td>NURSING</td>
<td>12/8/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCELLA THOMPSON</td>
<td>NURSING</td>
<td>12/8/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOHAMMAD R. JAFARI</td>
<td>CIVIL &amp; ENV. ENGINEERING</td>
<td>1/11/2016</td>
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<td>DEREK NIKITAS</td>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>1/16/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAREY MEDIN</td>
<td>CELL &amp; MOBIO</td>
<td>1/27/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>NICHEA SPILLANE</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>1/29/2016</td>
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D. Council Member Greenfield spoke regarding the evaluations of the 15-16 EGRA awards. The variance of the lowest scores were attributed to plagiarism and sparked a conversation on how to inform the student and his/her advisor. It was also agreed to add a statement about plagiarism on the call for proposals for next year and include a link to the University Manual regarding plagiarism. Greenfield proposed looking at several years worth of data to come up with a “norm range”. Peter August suggested normalizing the scores using a Z score after they had been submitted. It was decided that the Graduate School would
look to see what we could give Council for raw data and see if changes should be made. Alycia also suggested sharing examples of 'great', 'ok', and 'poor'. Dean Zawia also indicated that in order to have reviews done on time we may need to work via email prior to the next Graduate Council meeting.

E. Dean Zawia updated Council on the GAU negotiations that are ongoing. Associate Dean Rusnock noted the impact of the PTFU on Graduate Students and Programs. She asked that if Council has any creative suggestions on this topic to please contact her. Dean Zawia also noted the issue currently being discussed regarding part-time Assistants paying full-time tuition and full-time fees. He is meeting with the Provost, Budget, and several deans to discuss this issue further. Council members offered information on how and why they offer part-time assistantships. He asked Council to take this back to the colleges and email him with any comments or suggestions.

F. Kristin Johnson reported to Council on the importance of assessment records for the May 2016 reporting cycle. The data will be used for the NEASC accreditation report. This is the first time that Graduate Programs are being included in the NEASC accreditation report. She will be contacting all of the programs shortly to work with them on this item. Accredited programs will have an easier truncated assessment process. New programs, certificates included, have assessment built in.

V. Committees
   A. Curriculum committee

Course Changes Approved
HDF 420: Early Language and Literacy Development
HDF 455: Assessment in Early Childhood
NFS 560: Introduction to Clinical Practice

Courses deleted
NFS 528: Lipoprotein Metabolism in Health and Disease
NFS 551: Macronutrients in Human Nutrition
NFS 552: Micronutrients in Human Nutrition
NFS 559X: Dietetics Research and Practice Standards

New Courses Approved
NFS 553: Nutrient Metabolism I
NFS 554: Nutrient Metabolism II
BES 551: Ecosystem Science and Sustainability
MBA 531X: Economics for Healthcare Professionals
GEO 587/EVS 587: Environmental Hazards, Risks, Response and Safety

Additional Curricular Matters
1. HDF: Human Development and Family Studies Masters of Science proposed changes to eliminate requirement of graduate level statistics course and changing required credits was approved with one abstention.
2. School of Education proposed changes to satisfy certification requirements for the RI Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. The changes were approved.
3. MS-NFS proposed changes to combine three existing courses into two new courses was approved.
4. MS/DI-NFS proposed changes to combine three existing courses into two new courses was approved.
5. NFS: Online Dietetics proposed adding one credit to the online MS degree program. The changes were approved.

VI. New Business

A. RCR training - Ted Myatt discussed state of the RCR requirements. In 2014 the Council made this training mandatory for anyone doing a thesis or dissertation. Attendance at the seminars has not been good. He asked Council for feedback regarding the RCR training and how to improve attendance in the seminars versus online training or taking a course that satisfies the requirement. He also indicated that his office would be offering a 3-hour workshop next fall to fulfill the RCR requirement. Suggestions should be emailed to him.

B. Alycia Mosley Austin noted that the Faculty Guide program is rolling out but that there is not a tab for questions about mentoring Graduate Students. She asked for three volunteers or suggestions for some other faculty members who might be suitable. It’s a two-year commitment and anyone interested can send an email to Alycia Mosley Austin.

C. Reconsider Outside Chair for PhD defense – Associate Dean Rusnock brought to Council the question of why a defense would need an outside member for the chair. Several members noted their experiences of why this is a good policy, and gave examples of how an outside chair can serve as a referee if the defense gets tense. Others suggested that an outside chair does not have sufficient knowledge to effectively control questions. Council moved to keep the policy in place as is; the motion passed with one opposed.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Adjournment at 3:52 PM