University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 499, 11 April 2016  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Peter August, Denise Coppa, Michael Greenfield, Marc Hutchison, Beth Leonardo, Julia Lovett, Karen McCurdy, Lindsay McLennan, Scott McWilliams, Daniel Sheinin, Lubos Thoma, Jean Walton, Karen Wishner

Not Present: Jacqueline Britto, Robert Laforge, Abran Salazar, Angela Slitt

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Andrea Rusnock, Megan Yakey, Alycia Mosley Austin, Kevin McClure

I. Call to order at 2:04 PM by Dean Zawia.

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 498 were approved

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia informed Council that the Scholarships, Fellowships, and Diversity Awards have been awarded and that we are currently waiting for students to indicate their acceptance or decline. If anyone should decline we will go to the next in line for an award. The deadline for students to indicate their intention is April 15th.

B. Dean Zawia announced the winner of the 2016 Excellence in Doctoral Research Award to Dr. Zhen Ni for his dissertation entitled “Goal Representation Adaptive Dynamic Programming for Machine Intelligence” His advisor was Haibo He from Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering.

C. Dean Zawia requested that Council remind their departments to submit a nomination for the Rising Star Award as part of the Distinguished Achievement Awards event. The criteria for this award are that this person must have graduated within the last 10 years and shows great promise. Please send a letter stating why you are nominating this person along with his/her CV.

D. Associate Dean Rusnock asked Council to remind their colleges and departments that all Catalog changes are to be emailed by May 4th in order to make next year’s catalog. Please note that changes should be sent to Megan in a word doc with track changes. It was noted that there are an increased number of discrepancies between the catalog and department websites. The catalog is the University sanctioned information site so please make sure that your website agrees with it.

E. Dean Zawia reminded Council that Graduate Commencement will be held on Saturday May 21st and that we welcome all members of Council to attend. The Commencement website was recently overhauled and holds much more
information than previously. Please let you students know that there is a place for them to indicate if they plan to attend, but that it is not mandatory.

F. Associate Dean Rusnock noted that the Food for Thought series on March 30th, *Zika: Global Health Challenges* and on April 6th, *Clean Water: Flint and Beyond* were a great success. The next event will be presented will be *Navigating Racism* which will be presented on April 28th. She encouraged all Council members to attend and to make their colleges aware of this series. She also asked that if you have an idea for a future topic to please let her know so she can organize more events for next Fall.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARBARA PAYNE</td>
<td>CELS</td>
<td>3/14/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLGA YANKULINA</td>
<td>PHARMACY</td>
<td>3/15/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNE ZAJAC</td>
<td>FAVS/CELS</td>
<td>3/15/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANS SAINT-ELOI CADELY</td>
<td>HDF</td>
<td>4/7/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>KATE WEBSTER</td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>4/7/2016</td>
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H. Dean Zawia informed Council that this year’s Graduate Faculty Summit will be held on September 30th 2016. All URI faculty with Graduate Faculty Status are encouraged to attend this all day event. More details will follow but if there are any topics that Council would like to propose should be emailed to Dean Zawia.

IV. Committees

**Curriculum Committee**

Changes Approved
- BES500 Advanced Science Ethics
- BES501 Advanced Scientific Communication
- BES600 Graduate Seminar in Natural Resources
- BES550 Advanced Ecology
- PHT592 Comprehensive Cases in Physical Therapy
- ISE500/ELE500 Project Planning and Management in Systems Engineering

New Courses Approved
- PSY698 Internship in Professional Psychology
- MAF545 Environmental Thought and Behavior
- CHE570 Research Methods in Chemical Engineering

Courses Deleted
- BIO695 Graduate Seminar
- BCH/MIC (CMB695) Graduate Seminar
Additional Curricular Matters
1) HDF change of program titles below were approved
   a. Master of Science specializing in Human Development and Family Studies to Master of Science specializing in Developmental Science
   b. Master of Science specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy to Master of Science specializing in Couple and Family Therapy
2) MBA changes in admission and program requirements were approved

V. New Business
A. The impact of the Part Time Faculty Union on graduate student recruitment and retention was by a guest, Kevin McClure from Communications Studies. He outlined the impact that the PTFU has had on their department and its students. Many Communication Studies Masters students were hired as part-time faculty to help deliver their COM 100 sections. Because of seniority rules of the PTFU, the program can no longer offer per course teaching to graduate students and their enrollment has gone down by more then half, and recruiting more students to the program is moot because there is no funding available. He suggests that possibly folding graduate student per course instructors into a new category of student hire under the GAU might help alleviate the issue. Jean Walton also indicated that English has been impacted in a similar fashion. Lubos Thoma indicated the same for Mathematics.
B. The impact of the new college configuration on the Graduate Council representation was discussed and the following motion was made: (1) to reduce A&S representation to three representatives, (2) to add a representative from the College of Health Sciences, (3) to add a representative from the School of Education, and (4) to remove the representative from the College of Human Science and Services, which will be dissolved. The motion was approved.
C. Proposed changes to the Graduate Manual were all approved.
   a. Section 4.31
   b. Section 7.23
   c. Section 7.43
   d. Section 7.52
   e. Section 7.57.1.1
   f. Section 7.57.1.2
   g. Section 8.33.2
   h. Section 8.34.2
   i. Section 8.43.3
   j. Section 8.43.4

VI. Old Business
A. Changes to Graduate School Forms
a. Program of Study: remove all signatures except for student, major and co-major professors, and chair
b. Written and Oral Comprehensive Exams: combine request to schedule written and oral comprehensive exams

B. Committee Composition
   Reduce number of committee members for comprehensive exams and dissertation defenses from 5 to 4

VII. **Adjournment** at 3:37 PM