University of Rhode Island  
The Graduate School  
Graduate Council Meeting No. 500, 19 September 2016  
MINUTES

Council Members Present: Peter August, Kathleen Davis, Theresa Deeney (for Peter Adamy), Mustafa Kulenovic, Robert Laforge, Peter Larson, Lauren Mandel, Diane Martins, Karen McCurdy, Lindsay McLennan, Scott McWilliams, Abran Salazar, Angela Slitt, George Tsiatas, Karen Wishner

Not Present: Peter Adamy, Daniel Sheinen

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Andrea Rusnock, Assistant Dean Alycia Mosley Austin, Megan Yakey, Cara Mitnick

I. Call to order at 2:03 PM by Dean Zawia.

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 499 were approved with abstentions from those members not on Council last year.

III. Degrees and Certificates awarded for August 2016 were approved unanimously.

IV. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia gave warm welcome to the 2016-2017 Graduate Council and announced the 2016 Distinguished Achievement Rising Star Award. This year’s recipient is Raymond Two Hawks Watson, who received his masters of Community Planning in 2005. Nominated by CELS and A&S, he is a Native American and lifelong resident of Providence. The awards ceremony will be October 22\textsuperscript{nd}.

B. Dean Zawia notified Council that the Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards call for proposals was released last week. The deadline for applications is October 20\textsuperscript{th} at 4PM and more information on the awards can be found at the Graduate School website.

C. Dean Zawia introduced Council to our new Professional Development Coordinator, Cara Mitnick. She gave a brief overview of how she can help our students with writing resumes, honing interview skills, creating Linked-In profiles and other types of professional development. She has scheduled several workshops for this semester described in a newsletter sent to all URI graduate students.

D. Dean Zawia gave a brief update on Enrollment and Admissions. Council was informed of a few programs that are doing fantastic in terms of increasing enrollment, and others that have lost students. Overall, the number of admitted graduate students has increased slightly.
E. Associate Dean Rusnock spoke to Council regarding the changes to the Graduate Manual that were approved by last year’s Council. Included are changes to the Program of Study and the process to set up comprehensive exams. The number of required PhD committee members was dropped from 5 to 4. Finally, there is a change in the deadline to submit Leave of Absence requests.

F. Associate Dean Rusnock announced more changes from Enrollment Services and encouraged Council to take this information back to their colleges and help spread the word on their importance. Federal regulations now require any student not registered by the last day of the add/drop period to be withdrawn; Enrollment Services is enforcing this regulation.

G. Associate Dean Rusnock gave a brief update on TransForm. October 1 is the date promised by UCS to begin pilot testing once security issues have been resolved.

H. Assistant Dean Austin informed Council about the Graduate Faculty Summit on 30 September at the former U-Club. Dr. Daveena Tauber will be the keynote speaker; the title of her presentation is “Advising Writers for Thesis and Dissertation Success.” An agenda will be sent out this week. The Graduate School has a very brief turn around time for the summit after orientation and TA training, so we are counting on Council to spread the word within their colleges.

I. Dean Zawia noted the recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty since those listed on the agenda for last April’s Council meeting. He noted that there were 68 new hires but not all have applied for Graduate Faculty Status. Graduate Faculty status is automatically given to new faculty, but departments are responsible to requesting this status by sending a note to Associate Dean Rusnock.

CHARLES ROMAN GSO 4/18/2016
JAMES WARD HISTORY 4/20/2016
BRET ANDERSON ECONOMICS 5/4/2016
BRIAN M. CAMPBELL INP 5/12/2016
FRANK S. MENNITI INP 5/12/2016
ROBERT B. NELSON INP 5/12/2016
STEVIN H. ZORN INP 5/12/2016
COLIN ORIANS BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES 6/13/2016
ANDREW KEMP GEOSCIENCES 6/13/2016
NICOLE ROHR NATURAL RESOURCES SCIENCE 6/21/2016
JAMESON CHACE NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCE 6/21/2016
RONALD A. FOERCH MECHANICAL & SYSTEMS ENG 8/31/2016
MOHAMMAD JAFARI CIVIL ENGINEERING 8/31/2016
DAWN KOTOWICZ MARINE AFFAIRS 8/31/2016
NANCY FORSTER-HOLT BUSINESS 9/2/2016
V. Committees
Dean Zawia reviewed the various committees available to Council and explained the time constraints for both. The self-nomination forms were distributed and filled out by Council members and returned to Megan to be tallied.

Nominating Committee
Peter August and Terry Deeney were nominated to review the committee designations. The meeting time for this coming week will be decided after consulting them.

VI. New Business
A. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Rusnock reviewed the changes to Council membership in response to college reorganization that were approved at the last Council meeting in April 2016. The Graduate School shared data regarding graduate enrollment in each college following reorganization and noted that the College of Health Sciences has the second largest number of graduate students (after A & S). Dean Zawia asked if the representation from the College of Health Sciences should be increased. Discussion ensued and a motion was made to add an additional member to the Health Sciences College representation bringing them to a total of two. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Old Business

VII. Adjournment at 3:06 PM