

Graduate Council Meeting No. 520

January 28, 2019

Minutes

Council Members Present: Mark Comerford, Nick Constant, Peter Adamy, Nisa Ghonem, Michael Greenfield, Mustafa Kulenovic, Ingrid Lofgren, Lauren Mandel, Diane Martins, Scott McWilliams, Derek Nikitas, Daniel Sheinin, Gary Stoner, Mehmet Gokhan Yalcin

Council Members Absent: Peter Larsen, Colleen Mouw

Graduate School Present: Nasser Zawia, Andrea Rusnock, Alycia Mosley Austin, Cara Mitnick, Jessica Martinez

I. Call to order

➤ Time: 2:02 pm by Dean Zawia

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 519, 10 December 2018 (please see attachments)

★ *Approved: All approved*

★ *Abstained: 1 council member (absent from previous meeting)*

III. Announcements

A. GS Fellowships, Scholarships, and Diversity Awards

1. Usually the call for nomination of awards are made on February 1st.

B. ABD policy

1. ABD Memo was shared that was sent to the College Deans, Department Chairs, and Program Directors.
2. ABD is a new status that was approved by the Graduate Council on December 10th.
3. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Rusnock met with Jack Humphrey, the Registrar, to find out the best way to implement this new policy.
 - a. Will be treated the same as the Last Semester Status.
4. If you would like your student to be considered for ABD status, please send an email to Associate Dean Andrea Rusnock at rusnock@uri.edu.
 - a. Associate Dean Rusnock will then review the student's record. The student would need to have completed their comprehensive exams and have an approved dissertation proposal.
 - b. ABD status is good for up to two semesters. Students will be considered full-time students and able to register for a minimum of 3 credits.
 - c. ABD students are able to carry an assistantship and are eligible for scholarships and fellowships.
 - d. International students are eligible as well.

5. What is the advantage of students having an ABD status?
 - a. There are many students in the system that have reached the 72 credit minimum to obtain a Doctoral degree, but are only left with research to do. Students are required to registering for additional credits with additional charges for credits they do not need just to qualify for funding for an assistantship.
 - b. Students are still required to take 699.

C. GTA allocation

1. The Deans have received their GTA allocation letters last week.
2. First time Teaching Assistantships have been allocated based on data, evidence, need, and curriculum. Process began about four years ago after discussion on issues related to Teaching Assistantships; how are they allocated and whether the allocation was justified among the colleges. It led to forming a TA task force which included faculty from different colleges.
3. The Provost formed an implementation team to look at the recommendations of the task force and review all relevant data. The decision would be driven by evidence, latest changes in the curriculum, enrollment projections, and expectations.
4. The colleges were asked this year to return $\frac{1}{3}$ of the assistantships that they have to a central pool. Each had to make a case as to why the $\frac{1}{3}$ of their base, allocated for about 3 decades or more, have to be returned.
5. The implementation committee introduced new assistantships into the system. Within the next five years, including this year, 58 new assistantships will be added to the total assistantship distribution of the university.
6. Redistributed teaching assistantships throughout campus based on criteria, evaluations, performance, and expectations. No college lost assistantships at the end of the year period.
7. A central pool was created of Teaching Assistantships that will be open to students from other colleges managed by the Graduate School including;
 - a. Diversity Teaching Assistantships - Open to students in any graduate program.
 - b. The Graduate Writing Center - granted two GTAs, open to students in any discipline.
 - c. Allocated two GTAs to students who participate in the summer undergraduate research programs; SURF, SURFO, and INBRE.
 - i. Used mostly as a recruiting tool.
8. Working to create a mechanism on how the Graduate School will manage the central pool of assistantships in collaboration with departments.
9. Every three years the allocation will be reevaluated.

D. Professional Development upcoming events

1. Tomorrow night there will be a meeting with first year English graduate students about individual development plans.
2. Thursday there is a CV resume workshop at noon at the Graduate Writing Center and from 1:00-2:00 pm there will be cover letter review.
3. On February 6th there will be a MBTI personality assessment test and an analysis.
4. Question: Are any of these workshops available online? There have been a couple of students from the Providence Campus inquiring.
 - a. Cara would be happy to work with programs that would like an online version. A webinar was previously done for library students whose courses are all online. As well as conducted workshops at the Providence Campus Business program.

E. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty since those listed on the agenda for 10 December 2018 meeting

Eric Kaldor	Education	12/3/2018
Carl Saab	Interdisciplinary Neuroscience	1/10/2019
Suchandra Basu	ENRE	1/18/2019
Saleh Allababidi	BPS	1/23/2019
Julien Bonnel	Ocean Engineering	1/24/2019

IV. New Programs

A. New MESM track: Environmental Communication

1. The proposal was very straight forward, very well done. No issues were brought up.
2. New track in the MESM program that will help students provide them opportunities to follow a professional path which will be outside of academia.
3. Track within the MESM program for students already in the MESM program who will specialize in working with policy makers and journalists. Explaining science to others in simple terms.

- ★ Motion: Approve new MESM track
 - Approved: All in favor

IV. Graduate Curriculum (See Google Drive for Course forms)

400 level course changes:

**College of Arts and Sciences
Computer Science and Statistics**

CSC 411 Computer Organization

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 212 and student must be admitted to a degree-granting college."

- ★ Approved: All in favor

CSC 412 Operating Systems and Networks

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 212 and student must be admitted to a degree-granting college."

- ★ Approved: All in favor

CSC 415 Introduction to Parallel Computing

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 411 or ELE 305, and student must in admitted to a degree-granting college. In alternate years."

- ★ Approved: All in favor

CSC 436 Database Management Systems

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 212 and student must be admitted to a degree-granting college."

- ★ Approved: All in favor

CSC 440 Design and Analysis of Algorithms

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 212 and (CSC 340 or MTH/CSC 447) and student must be admitted to a degree-granting college."

★ Approved: All in favor

CSC 445 Models of Computation

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 340 or CSC/MTH447 and student must be admitted to a degree-granting college. In alternate years."

★ Approved: All in favor

CSC/CSF 462 Secure Programming

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 305"

★ Approved: All in favor

CSC 481 Artificial Intelligence

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 212 and student must be admitted to a degree-granting college."

★ Approved: All in favor

Philosophy**PHL 451 Symbolic Logic**

Cross list with CSC 451

Change in prerequisite to: "Any one of the PHL 101 CSC 340, CSC/MTH 447, or MTH 180, or permission of instructor"

★ Approved: All in favor

- Comments: Graduate Curriculum Committee discussed possible concern of potential overlap with some Math courses. This would be beyond the purview of the Graduate Committee because that is a matter the undergraduate curriculum committee reviewed when it became a course. Computer Science submitted a letter of support.

400-level New Course:**NRS 442 Environmental Crisis Communication**

Course description: "Effective communication requires strategy, clarity, and an audience-centric approach. Using case studies, this course will explore crisis communication theory and practice through the lens of recent environmental disasters. (Lec. 3)"

★ Approved: All in favor

500-level course changes:**College of Arts & Sciences
Computer Science and Statistics****CSC 550 Computer Algebra**

Change in prerequisite to: "CSC 440. In alternate years."

★ Approved: All in favor

**College of Environmental and Life Sciences
Geosciences**

GEO 562 Aqueous Geochemistry

New title: Biogeochemical Cycles

New Description: 'Introduction to processes controlling water chemistry in low-temperature environments in the context of global biogeochemical cycles, including weathering, ion exchange, acid-base chemistry, redox, mineral equilibria, isotopes, and modeling.'

★ Approved: All in favor

**College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering**

CHE 570 Research Methods in Chemical Engineering

Cross list with EGR 570

Change title to "Research Methods in Engineering"

New Description: "Provide experience, practice, and knowledge in engineering research methodology, including defining a research problem, writing a research paper, giving presentations, finding relevant literature, applying scientific knowledge in practice, ethics, professionalism."

★ Approved: All in favor

**College of Health Sciences
Human Development and Family Studies**

HDF 565 Family Therapy Practicum

New description, method of instruction, and prerequisites:

"Preparation for and practice of couple and family therapy. Live supervision, student-presented case material, and review of recordings of actual counseling sessions. Prerequisite: Admission to CFT program or permission of instructor. May be repeated for a maximum of 18 credits. (Practicum 3)"

★ Approved: All in favor

500-level New Course Proposal

**College of Arts and Sciences
Library and Information Sciences**

LSC 536 Media Smart Libraries

Course description: Students explore current trends in digital, media, and other literacies to learn how libraries can provide learning opportunities to advance the knowledge and competencies of users of all ages. (Online 3)

★ Approved: All in favor

**College of Environmental and Life Sciences
Cell and Molecular Biology**

CMB 502X Introduction to Cytopathology

Course description: "Cellular pathology analysis as a diagnostic tool in medicine. Learn to identify STDs, inflammation, neoplasia and causes of disease, classification and treatment. Morphological changes of cancer cells are discussed. Prerequisite: Junior, senior, or graduate standing or instructor permission (Lec. 3)."

★ Motion: Table

- Approved: All in favor

Marine Affairs

MAF 531 Environmental Justice

Course description: "Exploration of how race, class, gender, nationality, and ethnicity shape environmental inequalities. Topics include occupational health hazards, environmental social movements, public health concerns, and contested use of natural resources. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or instructor permission (Seminar 3)"

★ Approved: All in favor

College of Business

MAC 511 Data Analytics for Accounting

Course description: "Introduces data analytics process and various applications of data analytics in accounting. Emphasis on hands-on learning experience on varied analytical tools using real-world data. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in accounting or permission of MS. in accounting director. (Online 3)"

★ Approved: All in favor

College of Engineering

Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering

ELE 588 Optimization for Machine Learning Applications

Course description: "Introducing advances in optimization theory and algorithms for rapidly growing applications in machine learning such as linear regression, support vector machines, deep learning, and reinforcement learning. Prerequisite: Graduate standing, a thorough understanding of calculus, linear algebra, probability, and knowledge of computer programming, or permission of instructor (Lec. 4)"

★ Motion: Change to only permission of instructor or add 509 or equivalent as a prerequisite plus permission of instructor

- Approved: All in favor

Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies

School of Education

EDC 526 Applied Linguistics for TESOL/BDL

Course description: "EDC 526 provides opportunities for teachers of English Learners to develop their understanding of the English language system (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, orthography, spelling, and pragmatics), and how differences between English and other languages affect L2 language acquisition, literacy, and metalinguistic awareness. Prerequisite: Acceptance into a Master's program in the School of Education or permission of instructor. (Online 3)."

★ Approved: All in favor

EDC 560 Advanced Qualitative Research Procedures

Course description: "This advanced methods course focuses on key elements of qualitative research procedure with a particular emphasis on honing data collection and analysis skills. Prerequisite: EDP 612 or permission of instructor. (Lec. 2, Sem. 1)"

- ★ Motion: Table until letters of support from colleges that offer similar course are provided.
 - Approved: All in favor

College of Pharmacy

PHC/CHE/OCG 579 Special Topics on Emerging Contaminants

Course description: "Introduction to emerging contaminants such as PFASs, focusing on their chemistry, detection, epidemiology, human health, metabolism, and remediation, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration, research translation, community engagement, and professional development. Prerequisite: Graduate standing (Lec. 2)"

- ★ Approved: All in favor

College of Health Sciences

CHS 601 Seminar in Health Sciences

Course description: "Reports and discussions of current topics in health sciences, as well as oral reports of dissertation research topics in progress. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 credits. Prerequisites: Enrolled in the PhD in Health Sciences program or permission of instructor. (Sem. 1)"

- ★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

CHS 610 Grant Writing and Research Dissemination

Course description: "This course focuses on developing effective grant writing skills, the ability to identify grant opportunities related to health sciences, and the process of disseminating research outcomes. Prerequisites: Enrolled in the PhD in Health Sciences program or permission of instructor. (Lec. 3)"

- ★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

The following course proposals were tabled pending discussion of the new program proposal for a PhD in Health Sciences:

PHT 691 Research in Physical Therapy

Course description: "Assigned research on an advanced level. Students are required to outline the problem, conduct the necessary literature survey and experimental work, and present their observations and conclusions in a report. (Independent Study, 1-3 credits) May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

- ★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

KIN 691 Research in Kinesiology

Course description: "Assigned research on an advanced level. Students are required to outline the problem, conduct the necessary literature survey and experimental work, and present their observations and conclusions in a report. (Independent Study, 1-3 credits) May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences

- Approved: Majority in favor
- Abstained: 1 council member

HLT 691 Research in Health Studies

Course description: "Assigned research on an advanced level. Students are required to outline the problem, conduct the necessary literature survey and experimental work, and present their observations and conclusions in a report. (Independent Study, 1-3 credits) May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences

- Approved: Majority in favor
- Abstained: 1 council member

HDF 691 Research in Human Development & Family Studies

Course description: "Assigned research on an advanced level. Students are required to outline the problem, conduct the necessary literature survey and experimental work, and present their observations and conclusions in a report. (Independent Study, 1-3 credits) May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences

- Approved: Majority in favor
- Abstained: 1 council member

CMD 691 Research in Communicative Disorders

Course description: "Assigned research on an advanced level. Students are required to outline the problem, conduct the necessary literature survey and experimental work, and present their observations and conclusions in a report. (Independent Study, 1-3 credits) May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences

- Approved: Majority in favor
- Abstained: 1 council member

PHT 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Course Description: "(1-12 credits) Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study). S/U credit. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences

- Approved: Majority in favor
- Abstained: 1 council member

KIN 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Course Description: "(1-12 credits) Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study). S/U credit. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences."

★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences

- Approved: Majority in favor

- Abstained: 1 council member

HLT 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Course Description: “(1-12 credits) Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study). S/U credit. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences.”

- ★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

HDF 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Course Description: “(1-12 credits) Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study). S/U credit. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences.”

- ★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

CMD 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Course Description: “(1-12 credits) Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study). S/U credit. Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences.”

- ★ Motion: Table the whole series of health sciences related to the PhD in Health Sciences
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

Notice of Change

College of Engineering

Department of Electrical, Computer, and Biomedical Engineering

Change in requirements for Electrical Engineering graduate program:

1. All full time MS and PhD students must enroll in ELE 601 Graduate Seminar every semester that it is offered.
2. Eliminate “significant independent research “ course and “substantial paper” requirements for non-thesis MS students who take the comprehensive examinations.

- ★ Motion: Table item number 1 pending further discussion and getting more clarification.
 - Approved: Majority in favor
 - Abstained: 1 council member

- ★ Motion: To disaggregate notice of change and vote on item number 2.
 - Approved: All in favor

Comments:

- a. May create a conflict with the Graduate School guidelines (One seminar counts towards master’s degree and two towards PhD) and this would go above what is stated. This can be challenged.
- b. Within Chemical Engineering, this is already a requirement. There is a limitation for on campus students. Students list the seminar that will count towards one credit within the program of study and the other times are for non-program credit. This allows students meet

the requirement of the department but not accruing too many credits towards the program to increase participation in seminars.

c. Suggestions:

- i. If a student is in 699, they would be required to attend every seminar.
- ii. Require attending seminars the first two semesters and then the third and following semester make it part of 699.
 1. Great idea, but legislation would need to be changed in the Graduate School manual.
- iii. Create a dummy course, could be called basic research seminar course with zero credits, pass/fail.
- iv. Table item number 1 and bring up for discussion at the next Graduate Council meeting.

V. New Business

A. Report of the Ad hoc Fellowship Committee

1. Two documents were distributed, Dean's Fellowship & Dean's Diversity Fellowship and Scholarship nomination information.
2. Meeting was held in early January to discuss the nomination process for the Diversity Awards, Tuition Scholarship, and Fellowships.
3. Some changes were made based on feedback received from the Graduate Council members in the past.
4. Tuition Scholarship
 - a. Previously nominees were only required to submit the nomination form, letters of reference and a CV.
 - b. Changed to require a personal statement of the scholarship nominees.
 - c. Rubric will be updated to reflect the change.
5. Committee discussed changing the previous academic performance item on the rubric. It had a formula on how to calculate the GPA weighted based on how many semesters a student has. Committee recommends that instead of using the formula, use what the student's GPA is from the most recent degree.
 - a. If a student is 3 years into their PhD program, the GPA used would be their undergraduate degree?
 - i. The committee discussed having two separate sections. One for the undergraduate degree and one for the graduate GPA.
 - ii. Recent previous graduate degree, i.e. second master's, within the last 5 years, versus if the degree was greater than that. For example a student going back to school after 10 or 15 years.
 - iii. Look at undergraduate GPA within 10 years and current graduate degree within 5 years.
 - iv. The goal is to reduce the weight of the undergraduate GPA because there are many students that come many years after they have completed their undergraduate degree.
6. The fellowships were renamed to up the prestige factor and condense the fellowships and diversity awards under one rubric.
 - a. Last year, the Diversity Award nominees were required to write a supplemental essay to talk about how they would contribute to the diversity of the program.
 - b. Committee created a new supplemental essay for all fellowship nominees. They would write a short statement addressing how they would contribute to the mission of the university across one or more of the four elements which include:

- i. Creativity and scholarship
 - ii. Diversity, fairness, and respect
 - iii. Engaged learning and civic involvement
 - iv. Intellectual and ethical leadership
- c. On the nomination form, nominees can indicate whether they are eligible for the Dean's Diversity Fellowship or not.
- d. The limit of nominations will remain the same. Each department can nominate up to 3 students for the Dean's Fellowship and unlimited nominations for the Dean's Diversity Fellowship.
- e. Question:
 - i. Regarding the bullet point under eligibility for diversity fellowship stating 'first generation college student (neither parent has a bachelor's degree)', would it be worth considering neither parent has a graduate degree?
 - 1. Possibly change the language to 'neither parent has a college degree' would be more inclusive.
 - 2. Would this be a population we could say is underrepresented? This award is geared towards students who are traditionally underrepresented in the graduate program.

VII. Adjournment

➤ **Time: 3:37 pm by Dean Zawia**