

Graduate Council Meeting No. 535 November 30, 2020 Minutes

Council Members Present: Feruz Ganikhano, Nisa Ghonem, Shingo Goto, Rabia Hos, Kathy Hutchinson, Bethany Jenkins, Aaron Ley, Mary MacDonald, Mary Moen, Colleen Mouw, Alison Tovar, Fred Vetter, Jing Jian Xiao, Mehmet Gokhan Yalcin

Council Members Absent: Gabriel DePace, Jesse Duroha, Martha Rojas

Graduate School Present: Brenton DeBoef, Alycia Mosley Austin, Cara Mitnick, Corinne Kulesh, Jessica Martinez

I. Call to order

- Time: 2:03 pm by Chair Colleen Mouw

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 534, November 9, 2020

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes from meeting No. 534.*
 - *Unanimously approved*

III. Announcements

A. Cross-departmental ABMs (*DeBoef*)

1. The two combined committees, Graduate School Academic Policies, Standards, and Appeals Committee / Graduate Program Assessment Committee, reviewed Appendix K that discusses ABMs. Currently, ABMs are created within individual colleges. The committee questioned if the Graduate Manual language allows for cross-departmental ABMs and it was determined that section K.1.2 allows for this. Dean DeBoef announced proposals for cross-departmental ABMs are anticipated soon and encourages colleges to submit such proposals.

B. EGRAs Update (*Mosley Austin*)

1. Associate Dean Mosley Austin thanked the Graduate Council for reviewing the EGRA proposals. This academic year the applicant pool was significantly lower possibly due to limited travel requests. The Graduate School was able to award a higher amount of EGRA awards. Students were notified of awards.
2. Associate Dean Mosley Austin discussed the emergency Faculty Senate Meeting that took place last week. The Faculty Senate received a request from the Student Senate to have an additional grade option for the Fall semester. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee proposed to expand the second grade option to all undergraduate students which is historically an option for first year students. Associate Dean Mosley Austin made a motion to also include graduate students. Both motions were passed.
 - a) The second grade option would allow students who've taken a course graded a C- or lower, repeat the course, and only the grade from the repeated course would count towards GPA and Program of Study.

C. Enrollment Trends (*Kulesh*)

1. Director Kulesh announced that the graduate enrollment goal was met for Fall 2020. The contribution of new online programs and increased enrollment in the Nursing program, the College Student Personnel program, and Business programs played major roles in meeting the enrollment goal.
2. Director Kulesh discussed the next steps to grow graduate enrollment. Steps include assisting in converting in-progress applications, growing international applications, developing timely scholarships, innovative new programs, and developing Slate/CRM.

D. Professional Development Upcoming Events (*Mitnick*)

1. Director Mitnick emphasized that the Graduate Writing Center serves all enrolled URI graduate students. They work to help students develop academic and professional writing skills, offer one-on-one tutoring appointments, writing workshops and programs, writing groups, and specialized support for English Language Learners (ELL).
2. Director Mitnick shared a Fall 2020 at a Glance survey results stating there were about 242 writing tutoring appointments with 99% client satisfaction from 25 academic programs. Clients reported that the top three topics discussed with tutors were regarding clarity, organization, and content and ideas.

E. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty since those listed on November 9, 2020 meeting agenda (*DeBoef*)

Nathan D. Vinhateiro, Graduate School of Oceanography, adjunct appointment

Joseph M. Northup, Natural Resource Science, College of the Environment and Life Sciences, adjunct appointment

Andrew, Davies, Biological Sciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences, tenure-track appointment

IV. New Business

A. Suggested revision to 7.54 (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef stated, for consistency purposes, additional revisions to section 7.54 are needed to allow for other degrees, besides the Master's degree, to be awarded 30 credits. This is following the approval from the Graduate Council meeting held on November 9, 2020.

★ *Motion to adopt the proposed changes to section 7.54.*

- *Unanimously approved*

B. URI Ombuds (*DeBoef & Jenkins*)

1. Professor & Council Member Bethany Jenkins remarked that the Biological and Environmental Sciences graduate program is working on developing a document, collaborating with the graduate student reps, to disseminate information regarding best practices for advising and for students. Dr. Jenkins hopes to have a section within the document dedicated to pointing students in the right direction if they encounter challenges, issues or potential grievances.
2. Dr. Jenkins references section A.23 within the Graduate School Manual regarding the University Ombud and the ombud website where clarity is needed as to what role the URI Ombud plays when it comes to graduate students. Dr. Jenkins puts forth a suggestion to the Graduate Council to recommend that the Ombuds office update some of the language on their website to better reflect their role with graduate students as well as undergraduate students.
3. Dean DeBoef shared his experience dealing with the Ombuds Office this past academic year regarding two graduate student dismissal cases in which the Ombuds Office did a great job to make

sure both students were given fair due process.

4. Dean DeBoef will invite representatives from the Ombuds Office to the next Graduate Council meeting to provide additional information on their services.

V. New Graduate Programs & Notice of Change (See Google Drive for Course forms) (Mosley Austin)

Notice of Change

Kinesiology ABM

- ★ *Motion to approve Notice of Change proposal for Kinesiology ABM.*
 - *Unanimously approved*

Environmental Science and Management (MESM)

- ★ *Motion to approve Notice of Change proposal for Environmental Science and Management (MESM).*
 - *Unanimously approved*

Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design

- ★ *Motion to approve Notice of Change proposal for Textiles, Fashion Merchandising, and Design.*
 - *Unanimously approved*

VI. Adjournment

- Time: 3:10 pm by Chair Colleen Mouw

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on December 14, 2020



Brenton DeBoef, Interim Dean of the Graduate School