

Graduate Council Meeting No. 538

March 8, 2021

Minutes

Council Members Present: James Agostinucci, Gabriel DePace, Feruz Ganikhano, Shingo Goto, Rabia Hos, Kathy Hutchinson, Aaron Ley, Mary MacDonald, Mary Moen, Colleen Mouw, Fred Vetter, Travis Williams, Jing Jian Xiao, Mehmet Gokhan Yalcin

Council Members Absent: Jesse Duroha, Nisa Ghonem, Bethany Jenkins

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

Guest(s): Director David Hayes

I. Call to order

- Time: 2:02 pm by Chair Colleen Mouw

I. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 537, February 8, 2021

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes from meeting No. 537.*
 - Majority approved
 - 1 abstained

II. Announcements

A. Graduate Faculty Summit - Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 9 am - 12 pm (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef reminded the council that the Annual Graduate Faculty Summit is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2021. The topic for this year's summit is what works in graduate programs at URI. A panelist of peers will be presenting about programs that have done a complete revamp of their curriculum, programs going online, other initiatives, and enrollment data. The idea is to learn from each other.

B. Graduate Fellowships Update (*Mosley Austin*)

1. Associate Dean Mosley Austin stated that the Graduate School received 16 Graduate Tuition Scholarship nominations, 23 Dean's Fellowship nominations, and 18 Dean's Diversity Fellowship nominations. Associate Dean Mosley Austin reminded the council that they will be assigned about 12 nominations each to review this week with March 30th as the deadline. Two out of five of the First year Dean's Diversity Fellowships were accepted. Students have until April 15th to make a final decision.

C. Graduate Student Survey Outcome (*Kulesh*)

1. Director Kulesh informed the council that a spring survey was sent to all URI students in mid-February and had a total of 579 responses including 72 graduate students. Graduate students, compared to undergraduate students, ranked faculty, staff and peers highly in being helpful.

Satisfaction of life outside of the classroom ranked low and is similar with undergraduate student results. Students' experiences during the past couple of weeks have ranked more positive compared to fall survey results. Mental health continues to be one of the lowest markers as far as how students are doing. Almost 50% of graduate students recorded not doing well mentally compared with 54% of undergraduates. Students were given the opportunity to express additional concerns. Overwhelmingly, students asked to have a substitute for spring break like a mental health weekend. Brightspace and synchronous online classes are improving, but asynchronous classes still have some issues for students.

D. Professional Development Upcoming Events (*Mitnick*)

1. Director Mitnick mentioned Lindsay Anderson from the psychological consultation Center is hosting a workshop in April to talk to graduate students regarding mental health. Programs in March include a workshop on including presentations and publications on your resume when space is an issue, negotiating job offer packages, networking program, and Chair Colleen Mouw is hosting a workshop on making the most of your mentoring relationships.

E. Academic Enhancement Center- New Academic Support Initiatives (*Hayes*)

1. Director David Hayes from the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC) informed the council that he and Director Cara Mitnick have worked on the new initiative to hire someone to work on providing individual academic consultation with graduate students that focuses on issues that impact their ability to be successful academically. Most of the work revolves around learning to study more strategically and more effectively in ways that promote better learning and time management. Rachel Ansong, current URI P.h.D student, was chosen for the role. Rachel has started her role this semester. Students can schedule an appointment for consultation through Starfish.

F. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty since those listed on February 8, 2021 meeting agenda (*DeBoef*)

Stephen Jordan, adjunct appointment, MISE, College of Engineering

James LeBlanc, adjunct appointment, MISE, College of Engineering

Thomas Spengler, adjunct appointment, MISE, College of Engineering

Thomas Wettergren, adjunct appointment, MISE, College of Engineering

Saskina-Dorthée Ayata, one time appointment, Graduate School of Oceanography

Furu Mienis, adjunct appointment, Biological Sciences, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Rachel A. Loehman, adjunct appointment, NRS, College of the Environment and Life Sciences

Ying-Tsong Lin, adjunct appointment, Ocean Engineering, College of Engineering

III. New Business

A. [Revisions to Graduate Manual Section 10.22](#) (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef proposed changes to the graduate manual in regards to provisional status for graduate students. Provisional status is when a student falls below a 3.0 GPA. The Graduate School would like to prevent long term provisional statuses. Dean DeBoef, along with the Joint Committee, proposed to add language stating after one semester of a GPA below 3.0, the student must meet with their major professor and program director to submit a program of study and a written plan outlining steps to increase the GPA. After a second semester on provisional status, the student would have a hold on their account and a request for a plan. Third semester would result in dismissal and inability to enroll in future courses. Students would have the opportunity to appeal within 3 weeks of a dismissal notice. A council member suggested adding language indicating to submit the documentation to the Graduate School.

★ *Motion to amend Graduate Manual section 10.22 to include submitting to the Graduate School*

- *Unanimously approved*

★ *Motion to approve section 10.22 manual changes*

- *Unanimously approved*

B. [Revisions to Graduate Manual Section 8.43.2](#) (DeBoef)

1. Dean DeBoef mentioned that at the previous council meeting he proposed to create a process on student evaluations. It was discovered that this process already exists in the Graduate Manual section 8.43.2. Proposed language to add to this section to state if a P.h.D.or Master's Thesis student hasn't yet chosen a committee; it is the responsibility of the Major Professor or the Program Director to perform the annual review. Currently only one program does this process. The Graduate School would like to start advertising this to all graduate programs.

- ★ *Motion to approve proposed revisions to Graduate Manual section 8.43.2*
 - *Unanimously approved*

IV. **New Graduate Programs & Notice of Change (See Google Drive for New Program Proposals)** (Mosley Austin)

Notice of Change

MS in Dietetics

- ★ *Motion to approve the Masters in Dietetics proposal.*
 - *Unanimously approved*

V. **Graduate Curriculum (See Google Drive for Curriculum Proposals)** (DeBoef)

500-Level Course Changes

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

LSC 506 Data Literacy and Metadata Standards

This course provides theories and principles of data literacy including data analysis, data design, data structure, data evaluation, data related research, and national and international metadata standards. (Lec. 3, Online)

Changing title, description, and converting to accelerated online calendar.

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH

HDF 561 Research in Human Development & Family Science

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. (1-3 cr, independent study). *Pre: Enrollment in the Doctoral Program in Health Sciences. May be repeated for up to 6 credits.*

Changing title.

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

HDF 570 Research Methods in Human Development

Historical, philosophical, and procedural foundations of scientific inquiries into individuals and families. Explores the various ways to acquire information about human development and family relationships. (Lec. 3) *Pre: graduate standing or permission of instructor.*

Changing title.

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

NFS 561 to 565 MS in Dietetics Courses

Changing four credit courses to three credits courses.

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

NFS 567 to 569 MS in Dietetics Courses

Changing two credit courses to three credit courses.

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

NFS 570 Data Analysis in Dietetic Research

Data collection, analysis and presentation of results in table and graph format.

Changing title, description, method of instruction and from four credits to one credit.

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY

OCG 561 Biological Oceanography

Biology and ecology of marine ecosystems; role of ocean biology in global biogeochemical processes; Emphasis on marine plankton; patterns of distribution, productivity and species interactions.

Changing description and from four credits to three credits.

- ★ *Unanimously approved*

500-Level New Course Proposals

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

AMS 528 Applied Topology

Fundamental concepts of topology, metric spaces, homotopy equivalence. Simplicial complexes. Homology and cohomology groups. Exact sequences. Duality. Persistent homology, persistent diagrams, and their computation applications. (3 cr.) *Pre: MTH 215 and MTH 243 or permission of the instructor.*

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

CSC 561 Neural Networks and Deep Learning

Survey of traditional and newly developed deep learning methods, including convolutional networks, recurrent networks, auto-encoders, and generative adversarial networks, as well as their application to real-world problems. (4 cr.) *Pre: CSC 461 or Permission by Instructor*

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

MUS 506 Music Administration and Supervision

Instruction for music administrators and supervisors in schools and other music programs. Content includes facilities management, budgets, scheduling, curriculum design, music teacher evaluation, program review, community relations, and community evolution. (3 cr.) *Pre: Graduate standing*

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

MUS 520 Advanced Studies in Musicology

This course offers deep inquiry into areas of musicology, developing skills in historical and cultural research and deepening knowledge of musical practices. Focuses on current practices in musicology. (3 cr.) *Pre: Graduate standing or permission of instructor*

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

MUS 551/441 Exceptional Learners in Music

Prepares music teachers to understand inclusion in education, provide adaptive music teaching strategies, lesson planning, and management techniques, and identify and create materials, instruction and assessment accommodations for diverse learners in music. (3 cr.) *Pre: MUS 235 or graduate standing*

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

PSC 590 Internship in Public Administration and Policy

Participation at a public service, non-profit, or policy organization. Planning, policy analysis and formation, personnel management, budgeting and finance, and public service responsibilities that are the hallmark of effective governance. (3 cr.) *Pre: Permission of M.P.A. director. May be taken as one 6-credit unit or two 3-credit units*

- ★ *Majority approved*
- ★ *1 abstained*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**TMD 511 Survey of Research Design and Methods in Textiles**

Overview of ethical principles and challenges, theory development, scientific inquiry, introduction to techniques and research approaches used within the context of textiles and clothing. (3 cr.) *Pre: Graduate standing or seniors with the permission of instructor*

- ★ *Unanimously approved*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**MCE 553 Microfluidics**

Fundamentals and applications of microfluidic systems, including basic concepts, microflow fundamentals, microfabrication techniques, related topics such as acoustofluidics, optofluidics and organ-on-chips with their applications in chemical and biochemical analysis. (3 cr.) *Pre: MCE 354 Fluid Mechanics or CHE 347 Transfer Operations I or permission of instructor*

- ★ *Unanimously approved*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH**NFS 571 Applied Medical Nutrition Therapy in Dietetics 1**

Implementation of the nutrition care process in clinical settings for patients with gastrointestinal disorders, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. (1 cr.)

- ★ *Unanimously approved*

NFS 572 Applied Medical Nutrition Therapy in Dietetics 2

Implementation of the nutrition care process in clinical settings for patients with renal disease, human immunodeficiency virus, cancer and those receiving nutrition support. (1 cr.) *Pre: Enrolled in MS Dietetics Program or permission of instructor*

- ★ *Unanimously approved*

NFS 573 Applied Medical Nutrition Therapy in Dietetics 3

Implementation of the nutrition care process in clinical settings for pulmonary disease, pediatrics, geriatrics and weight management. (1 cr.) *Pre: Enrolled in MS Dietetics Program or permission of instructor.*

- ★ *Unanimously approved*

NFS 574 Applied Foodservice Operations

Application of the management of foodservice operations in a hospital environment including menu development, purchasing systems, production and service of food, and food safety and sanitation. (1 cr.) *Pre: Enrolled in MS Dietetics Program or permission of instructor*

★ *Unanimously approved*

NFS 575 Applied Community Nutrition and Health Promotion

Application of the theories explaining nutrition related behaviors coupled with strategies for promoting behavior change among diverse populations, building on skills in interpreting nutrition information for planning, implementing and evaluating community interventions. (1 cr.) *Pre: Enrolled in MS Dietetics Program or permission of instructor*

★ *Unanimously approved*

NFS 576 Applied Specialization in Dietetics

Application of research and evidence-based practice to specialized dietetics settings. (1 cr.) *Pre: Enrolled in MS Dietetics Program or permission of instructor*

★ *Unanimously approved*

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY

OCG 562 Biological Oceanography – Laboratory

Course covers measurement and analysis techniques commonly used in biological oceanography. Includes laboratory work, computer exercises and research cruises on Narragansett Bay. This course supplements OCG 561 and lectures and reading from that class are essential preparation for the labs. Evaluation based on participation in all the exercises and a cumulative laboratory reports. (1 cr.) *Pre: OCG 561*

★ *Unanimously approved*

600-Level New Course Proposals

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

PHT 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research

Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Ind. Study 1-12). S/U credit.

★ *Majority approved*

★ *1 abstained*

VI. Adjournment

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on April 5, 2021



Brenton DeBoef, Interim Dean of the Graduate School