

Graduate Council Meeting No. 541 September 13, 2021 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Gabriel DePace, Cheryl Foster, Josh Gyllinsky, Shingo Goto, Rabia Hos, Kathy Hutchinson, Bethany Jenkins, Aaron Ley, Mary MacDonald, Mary Moen, Martha Rojas, Angela Slitt, Arthur Spivack, Fred Vetter, Jing Jian Xiao

Council Members Absent: James Agostinucci, Monique Cardinal, Feruz Ganikhano,

Graduate School Present: Brenton DeBoef, Corinne Kulesh, Jessica Martinez, Cara Mitnick, Meghan Warhola

I. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Fred Vetter

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 540, April 19, 2021 (reference link)

- ★ Motion to approve the minutes from meeting No. 540 April 19, 2021
 - Approved
 - 3 council members abstained

III. Conferral of Graduate Degrees (DeBoef)

- ★ Motion to recommend to the University of Rhode Island Board of Governors approval of the candidates for the award of Graduate degrees whose names will be certified by the Faculty Senate on September 30th, be certified by the Graduate Council, and the Graduate School for August 2021 graduation.
 - Approved

IV. Announcements

- A. Introductions (DeBoef)
 - 1. All council members took turns introducing themselves.
- B. Graduate Council Role & Operation (DeBoef & chair)
 - 1. Dean DeBoef discussed the role of the Graduate Council, expectations for the committees and what to expect throughout the year. Chair Vetter led the discussion of preference of the council in holding meetings in-person or via Zoom. The council members agreed to continue the council meetings via Zoom for this academic year.
- C. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty since those listed on April 19, 2021 meeting agenda (DeBoef)
 - 1. Dean DeBoef stated there were no new appointments.
- D. EGRA (DeBoef & Mitnick)
 - 1. Call for EGRA proposals will open on September 30th and close on October 13th. Director Mitnick discussed new changes to the proposal. Group proposals of up to three students will be allowed, extension of funds for 12 months, and reviewers will now have three weeks to review proposals.
- E. Graduate Enrollment Update (Kulesh)
 - 1. Interim Director Kulesh discussed the initiative of contacting students who are on a leave of absence and have not returned to offer a waiver of the reinstatement fee. This fall 20 students enrolled compared to 10 students for Fall 2020.
 - 2. Interim Director Kulesh briefly discussed the enrollment data, but advised the council that October 15th is the actual census date in which the numbers provided could change. Last academic year there were 2,021 students enrolled in-person and online compared to this academic year with 2,108 (4% increase) students enrolled. Programs that saw an increase in enrollment were highlighted.

- F. Graduate Program Directors Fall Meeting (*DeBoef*)
 - 1. Dean DeBoef informed the council that the Graduate Directors Fall meeting will be held on October 20th via Zoom from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The last portion of the meeting will be dedicated to new Program Directors. President Parlange was invited to attend as well.
- G. Professional Development Upcoming Events (*Mitnick*)
 - 1. Director Mitnick provided a recap of the TA Workshop Training four part series that included a new session on Mental Health First Aid Training. Upcoming programs include Inclusive Teaching and Pedagogy on September 30th and FERPA Training on October 6th.
- H. Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board Cases (*Martinez*)
 - 1. Executive Assistant Martinez discussed with the council two cases the Graduate Student Academic Appeals Board reviewed over the summer. The Board granted one student a 45 day extension to provide the documentation needed, but the student failed to submit valid documentation within the timeframe. The dismissal decision was kept. With the second case, the Board determined that no new evidence was provided with the appeal request thus keeping the original dismissal decision.
- I. Graduate School Commencement Ceremony (*Martinez & DeBoef*)
 - 1. Executive Assistant Martinez informed the council that the Class of 2020 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony will take place at 11 am on Friday, October 1st at the Ryan Center. Graduates and attending faculty must register in order to attend the ceremony. Similar procedures as the May 2021 ceremony. Hooding ceremony will take place as normal and PharmD students are included for the first time in the Graduate School Ceremony.
- J. GA Parking Permits (*Jenkins*)
 - 1. Professor Jenkins discussed the concern in parking permit delays for Graduate Assistants. Students receive parking tickets when their contract should provide a parking permit. Dean DeBoef discussed possible scenarios of why a student might have delays in receiving a parking permit. Dean DeBoef will follow up with Vice President Rider and Parking Services to determine a temporary solution.

V. New Business

- A. Graduate Committee Assignments (*DeBoef*)
 - ★ *Motion to approve the council committee assignments*
 - *Approved*
 - *1 council member abstained*
- B. ABM application policies (*DeBoef*)
 - 1. Dean DeBoef led a discussion of when a student is eligible to be in an ABM program. Council suggested to view data on ABM pathways and to allow for flexibility when possible. Dean DeBoef will have the Joint Council Committee review the ABM policy and bring it back to the council at a later meeting.
- C. Revisions to Graduate Manual section 7.57.1.2 - allowing remote and hybrid oral comprehensive exams
 - ★ *Motion to table revisions to Graduate Manual section 7.57.1.2 as proposed*
 - *Approved*
- D. Revisions to Graduate Manual section 4.11 - removal of reinstatement fee
 - ★ *Motion to table revisions to Graduate Manual section 4.11 as proposed*
 - *Approved*

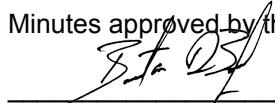
VI. Graduate Curriculum & New Programs (*DeBoef*)

- A. There are no new proposals for discussion.

VII. Adjournment

- **Chairperson Vetter asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on October 4, 2021



Brenton DeBoef, Dean of the Graduate School