

Graduate Council Meeting No. 558 November 27, 2023 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Alessandra Adami, Araceli Bonifant, Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Emilija Djurdjevic, Emmett Goods, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Karen Morse, David Rowley, Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely, Showrov Rahman, Minsuk Shim, Helani Singhapura, Angela Slitt, Karolina Wojcik, Ping Xu

Council Members Absent: Ali Akanda, Patricia Crawford, Brenton DeBoef, Corinne Kulesh, Martha Rojas, Yang Shen

Graduate School Present: Eric Beretta, Jessica Coyle, Cara Mitnick, Colleen Mouw

I. Call to order

- ★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:07 pm by Associate Dean Mouw.*

II. Approval of Minutes - Meeting No. 557, November 6, 2023

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting no. 557*
 - *Approved*

III. Conferral of December Graduate Degrees (Mouw)

- ★ *Move to recommend the University of Rhode Island Board of Trustees approval of the candidates of the award of graduate degrees whose names will be certified by the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council, and the Graduate School for December 2023 graduation.*
 - *Approved*

IV. Announcements

A. Graduate School Fellowships and Scholarships (*Mouw*)

1. Associate Dean Mouw stated that the Graduate School will send an email notification announcing the call for nominations for the First-Year Dean's Diversity Fellowship, Dean's Fellowship, and Tuition Scholarship competitions. There will not be a call for nominations for the First-Year Doctoral Fellowships as the fellowship has been discontinued. The Graduate School's [funding web page](#) includes information on eligibility and application deadlines.
2. Associate Dean Mouw mentioned the recently announced \$12k tuition model for students supported on graduate research assistantships that will begin Fall 2024 as a reminder to faculty who are submitting grant proposals to include the new tuition amount.

B. Professional Development (*Mitnick*)

1. Director Mitnick announced the upcoming professional development programs that include 'Reimagining Productivity: More Self-Care = Less Stress' and 'Equitable and Inclusive Course Design,' as well as upcoming December programs. URI's Graduate Student Association (GSA) is hosting a karaoke night for graduate students on November 30th. Director Mitnick reminded the council that the Graduate Writing Center and Grad Success Coaching is open through December 20th. The Graduate School is hosting the 1st annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition that is open for URI doctoral and research master's students. There will be three rounds with the first round deadline of January 26th, more information on the [3MT web page](#).

C. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty (*Mouw*)

Manthena Varma, Outside Scholar, COP
Mateja Nenadovic, Assistant Professor, CELS

Lynn Taylor, Research Professor, COP
Stephen Powers, Outside Scholar, COE
Blair Johnson, Outside Scholar, CHS
Laura Eme, Adjunct, CELS
James Brau, Outside Scholar, COB
Stephen Owne, Outside Scholar, COB
Trenton Williams, Outside Scholar, COB
Bethany Wilcox, Outside Scholar, CHS

V. Graduate Curriculum (Kuali Agenda) (Mouw)

NO CURRICULUM PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME

VI. Graduate New Program & Tracks ([Kuali Agenda](#)) (DeBoef)

PROGRAMS CHANGES

COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL & LIFE SCIENCES:

TABLED Environmental and Natural Resource Economics - PhD

Removing GRE requirement

Removing the GRE requirement for admission: Taking the GRE can be an impediment for some potential applicants to apply, given its cost and locations where the exam is held -- these problems can be especially acute for international students. Removing the GRE requirement will allow more applicants to apply to our program. We aim for this change to be implemented in the 2023-24 admissions cycle.

TABLED Environmental and Natural Resource Economics - MS course

Removing GRE req. and adding alt.

(1) Removing the GRE requirement for admission: Taking the GRE can be an impediment for some potential applicants to apply, given its cost and locations where the exam is held -- these problems can be especially acute for international students. Removing the GRE requirement will allow more applicants to apply to our program. We aim for this change will be effective for the 2023-24 admission cycle (for students who would enroll Fall 2024).

(2) Adding alternative course to for EEC 502: EEC 502 is a required (core) course. Because it is offered every other year, for some students, especially the ABM students, taking this course in a timely manner can be nearly impossible. We are adding WRT533 (Seminar in Graduate Writing in Life Sciences) and BES521 (Rhetorical Field Methods for Science Communication) as alternative courses in place of EEC 502 on its off-year. We aim for this change will be effective immediately for students who enrolled Fall 2023.

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics - ABM

Updating admission requirement

Removing the requirement to submit "a letter of support for admission from the student's undergraduate advisor or the student's future major professor" when applying for the program. All applicants must submit a pre-application form signed by their undergraduate advisors, thus a letter of support requirement is redundant. We aim to implement this change in the 2023-24 application cycle.

★ *Approved*

VII. New Business

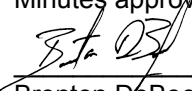
A. EGRA Reviews

The Graduate Council members, with the exception of student representatives, joined breakout rooms to discuss the EGRA scores and select the awardees within their groups.

VIII. Adjournment

★ *Chair Slitt asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.*

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on January 16, 2024



Brenton DeBoef, Dean of the Graduate School