Graduate Council Meeting No. 564
September 30, 2024 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Alessandra Adami, Sarah Behm, Araceli Bonifant, Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Emilijia Djurdjevic Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Emmett Goods, MArc Hutchison, David Rowley, Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely, Yang Shen, Minsuk Shim, Brett Still, Quinn Tucker, Karolina Wojcik

Council Members Absent: Ali Akanda, Karen Morse, Ami Vyas

Council Guests: Niall Howlett *(attending for Amy Vyas)*, Alicia Vaandering *(attending for Karen Morse)*

Graduate School Present: Eric Beretta, Stacy Carrasco, Jessica Coyle, Brenton DeBoef, Corinne Kulesh, Cara Mitnick, Colleen Mouw

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I. **Call to order**
   ★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Chair Saint-Eloi Cadely.*

II. **Approval of Minutes - Meeting No. 563, September 9, 2024**
   ★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting no. 563*
      ○ *Approved*

III. **Announcements**
   A. Slate Rollout and Implementation *(Kulesh)*
      1. Director Kulesh defined the terminology for CAS (centralized application service), WebAdmit (admissions management system), and Slate (client relationship management). Implementing Slate would replace the need for the clunky 2 part system (CAS/WebAdmit) to create a more centralized application process. Results would be better applicant experience and more intuitive program experience.The application fee would be reduced from $165 to $65, creating lower and more accessible application fee/waivers, leading to growth of the applicant pool.
      2. Currently in the midst of technical build for Slate. Director Kulesh will continue communication of progress with testing/feedback in October. Training materials will be out in late October/early November and the 1st phase of the reading portal will be expected in November so application reading can begin for Summer/Fall 2025.
      3. Training materials will be a 3 phased approach:
         a) Written materials
         b) Asynchronous webinars
         c) Synchronous FAQ type webinars
      4. Full applications are expected to be ready for Spring 2026 start term
      5. Summer and Fall 2025 applications were released on September 23 as well as rolling ABM applications in CAS; holding Spring 2026 for Slate. Continue using WebAdmit for Spring 2025 application decisions.

B. Program Learning and Success Reporting *(Kulesh)*
   1. Director Kulesh presented the Graduate Program Learning & Success report, summarizing the 1st year launch. Some changes include 3-year cycle and reporting at the college level. Grad School will provide program-level data prior to form submission. There were 17 submitted reports for Cohort 1 (3 pending).
   2. Key Takeaways from feedback: growing applicant pool, need support for marketing/recruitment, issues affecting growth efforts, and mentoring support for faculty advisors.
   3. 2nd Cohort will be College of Arts & Sciences and College of Nursing.
C. Professional Development *(Mitnick)*
   1. Director Mitnick presented upcoming professional development programs for October highlighting Three Minute Thesis Kick Off, AI (ChatGPT) and Graduate Writing, URI Engineering & Technology Career Fair, Equitable Inclusive Teaching & Pedagogy, Half-Life Your Research Message, and OPT Workshop. She discussed the Teaching at Teaching Intensive Institutions Conference that 12 URI students attended on 9/27. She announced reinstating the Bridgewater State teaching program in the Spring. Graduate Student Association (GSA) President Karolina Wojcik announced GSA is forming a committee to revive the Graduate Student Conference.
D. New procedures for EGRA applications *(Mitnick)*
   1. Director Mitnick announced that an email went out for graduate students to apply for research support in amounts up to $2000 individually or up to $3000 for a group of 3 - double the amounts from previous years. Students can now use the money to attend international conferences and can request additional supplemental funding. Grad Council members are responsible for reviewing applications and should encourage students to apply for external and internal funding as much as possible. Faculty will submit support forms instead of reference letters for a more equitable evaluation across campus.
E. Upcoming Events *(Mouw)*
   1. Annual Program Directors Meeting - Virtual, Thursday, Oct. 17, 1-3 pm
   2. Annual Faculty Summit - Virtual, Thursday, Dec. 5, 10 am - noon
F. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty *(Mouw)*

Nicole King, Assistant Professor, COEdu	*Pengyu Liu, Assistant Professor, CAS*
Kelum Gajamannage, Assistant Professor, CAS	*Nhu Nguyen, Assistant Professor, CAS*
Brian Beale, Outside Scholar, CELS	*Chadwick Rittenhouse, Outside Scholar, CELS*
Elizabeth Bonczek, Outside Scholar, CELS	*Anna Robucki, Outside Scholar, GSO*
Belinda Barbagallo, Outside Scholar, CELS	*D'Arcy Renee Meyer-Dombard, Outside Scholar, CELS*
Cameron Goodwin, Adjunct, COEng	*Stephen Jordan, Adjunct, COEng*
James Leblanc, Adjunct, COEng	*Thomas Spengler, Adjunct, COEng*
Thomas Wettergren, Adjunct, COEng	*Helen Croskell, Outside Scholar, COB*
Paulo J. Murillo-Sandoval, Assistant Professor, CELS	*Joseph D. Foresi, Outside Scholar, COB*
John Orrocki, Outside Scholar, CELS	*Ximing Guo, Outside Scholar, CELS*
Paulo J. Murillo-Sandoval, Assistant Professor, CELS	*Jillian Scheer, Assistant Professor, CHS*

G. Staff Changes
   1. Dean DeBoef announced Jessica Coyle has moved from Executive Assistant to Senior IT at the Graduate School. Three positions are open: Executive Assistant, Part-time Career Advisor, and Communications Coordinator. The Communications Coordinator is intended

to support programs with communications effort, but colleges will be funding their own graduate programs.

IV. **New Business**

    A. Mentoring Program Initiative *(Mouw)*
        1. Associate Dean Mouw has solicited applications for faculty interested in serving on a graduate mentoring committee due October 7. Faculty will receive $300 in professional development funds.
    B. Proposed Graduate Manual Changes
        1. Section 4.40 - No required registration for summer comprehensive exams
            a) The proposed change is to remove the language requiring enrollment for summer comprehensive exams.
                ★ *Approved*
        2. Remove Outdated Preface
                ★ *Approved*
        3. Update Preamble
            a) The proposed changes are to add language to clarify that amended changes are not always immediately effective, such as those related to admission cycles. Approved sections will be noted with Amended and Effective dates.
                ★ *Approved*
        4. Section 8.42.2 and 8.43.2 - Defense Chair role clarification
            a) The proposed changes for PHD and Master's Defense Chairs per appropriate section
                (1) Remove language - Graduate School does not appoint defense chairs
                (2) Change language clarifying that the 4th member serving as chair has not served on the committee prior to defense but may have served as oral exam chair
                    (a) Dean DeBoef proposed friendly amendment to "chair" to "additional member"
                (3) Add language to clarify intention of impartiality of defense chair to ensure fair defense
                (4) Add acknowledgement by department chair or Graduate Program Director for defense results form
                (5) Remove language for certifying corrections form and add language clarifying signature approval page only to be signed when corrections are approved
              ★ *Approved*

V. **Graduate Curriculum (Kuali Agenda) (Mouw)**

COURSE CHANGES *(vote by college)*

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

MUS 438 | Music, Mind and Body   **Change in description, prerequisites, graduate credit**
(3 crs.) This course explores intersections of neurobiology and music, delving into the neuroscience of music stimuli and impact for health outcomes, research, and community. (Lec. 3) Pre: Music Therapy Major, Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Major Clinical Track, or by permission of instructor.
    ★ *Approved*
    ★ *1 Abstained*

PSC 590 | Internship in Public Administration and Policy   **Change in modality, credits**
(1-6 crs.) 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. (Practicum/Online/Accelerated Online Course) Pre: permission of M.P.A. director. May be taken up to 6-credits.
   ★ *Approved*
   ★ *1 Abstained*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

BAI 455 | Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Applications   **Change in prerequisites**
(3 crs.) Intermediate business applications of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence. (Lec. 3) Pre: BAI 212, BAI356, and senior standing in a degree granting college; or by permission of instructor.
   ★ *Approved*
   ★ *1 Abstained*

BUS 515 | Innovation and Entrepreneurship Practicum   **Change in description, modality**
(3 crs.) This course applies business concepts in an experiential setting. (Accelerated Online Program/Practicum) Pre: open to graduate students only
   ★ *Approved*
   ★ *1 Abstained*

<mark>TABLED</mark> **MBA 522 | Business Integration I**   **Change in prerequisite**
(3 crs.) Business Integration I covers fundamental statistics analysis commonly used in business and uses case studies and teamwork to help students integrate knowledge in various business functions. (Lec. 3)

MBA 526 | Product and Service Management   **Change in prerequisite**
(6 crs.) Project based learning to develop business ideas, market strategy, quality control, and life cycle of product and service development. Utilizing creative design processes to deliver product innovation. (Lec. 6)
   ★ *Approved*
   ★ *1 Abstained*

MBA 529 | Career Planning   **Change in prerequisite**
(1 cr.) Implement career planning by researching career options, setting individual goals, preparing cover letters and resumes, and practicing for interviews. (Lec. 1)
   ★ *Approved*
   ★ *1 Abstained*

TMD 424 | Retail Product Trend Forecasting   **Change in title, description**
(3 crs.) Explore theory, principles, and the role of consumer trends and innovations in society from a multidisciplinary perspective and their impact on today's global marketplace. (Lec. 3) Pre: senior or graduate standing.
   ★ *Approved*
   ★ *1 Abstained*

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LIFE SCIENCES

EEC 576 (STA576, ECN576) | Econometrics   Change in cross-listed courses, modality, prerequisites
(4 crs.) Cross-listed as (EEC), ECN576, STA576. Application of statistics and mathematics to economic analysis. Implication of assumption required by statistical methods for testing economic hypotheses. Current econometric methods examined and discussed. (Lec. 3, Lab. 2/Online) Pre: STA409 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.
  ★ *Approved*
  ★ *1 Abstained*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE

CMD 495 (NEU495) | Snapshots of Experimental Methods in Neuroscience   Cross-listing, change in prerequisites

(3 crs.) Crosslisted as (CMD) NEU495. This course is designed to provide knowledge about current research methodologies within neuroscience used in research, assessment, and intervention of communication processes and disorders. (Lec. 3) Pre: NUR213, KIN122, CMD280G, CMD377, BIO220, or NEU101; junior standing, or permission of instructor.
  ★ *Approved*
  ★ *1 Abstained*

NEU 503 (PHT503) | Introduction to the Neurosciences   Cross-listing
(3 crs.) Cross-listed as (NEU) PHT503. This survey course will introduce basic neuroscience areas, including gross and microscopic anatomy, neural development, membrane physiology, sensory and motor systems, language, cognition, neuropharmacology, neuroengineering, and psychological disorders. (Lec. 3) Pre: Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.
  ★ *Approved*
  ★ *1 Abstained*

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NEW COURSES *(vote by college)*

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COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

CHM 514 | Fundamentals of Mass Spectrometry
(3 crs.) Principles of mass spectrometry (MS). The fundamentals of mass spectrometer will be discussed in detail as well as historic developments and MS types. Typical analytical problems will be reviewed and examined in a laboratory setting. (Lec. 2/Lab. 1) Pre: Completion or concurrent enrollment in CHM 500, or by permission of instructor.
  ★ *Approved*
  ★ *1 Abstained*

TABLED CSC 595 | Invited Speaker Series: CS & Stats Insights
(1 cr.) Cross-listed as (STA) CSC 595. Talks by experts in Computer Science and Statistics, providing insights into cutting-edge research and practical applications. Attendance and reflective writing are mandatory. (Seminar) Pre: Enrolled in the Computer and Statistical Sciences PhD program. S/U Only.

SCM 545 | Video Storytelling for Science and the Environment
(3 crs.) This course takes an interdisciplinary approach by welcoming graduate and undergraduate students from a variety of disciplines to collaborate with our project partners to create compelling science stories. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

TABLED STA 595 | Invited Speaker Series: CS & Stats Insights
(1 cr.) Cross-listed as (STA) CSC 595. Talks by experts in Computer Science and Statistics, providing insights into cutting-edge research and practical applications. Attendance and reflective writing are mandatory. (Seminar) Pre: Enrolled in the Computer and Statistical Sciences PhD program. S/U Only.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

TABLED DBA 691X | Special Topics: Doctorate of Business Administration
(1-3 crs.) The purpose of this course is to acclimate students to the DBA program. Special topics will be chosen to provide students acclimation to their program as well as their mentor. (Independent Study) Pre: Acceptance into the DBA program or affiliated program

TABLED MBA 531 | Financial Technologies
(3 crs.) Offers advanced exploration of the FinTech industry, its key components, and innovative methods for enhancing the transfer, raising, and investment of money and capital. Designed for graduate students interested in finance and technology. (Lec. 3/Online)

MBA 557 | Entrepreneurial Finance
(3 crs.) Introduces future entrepreneurs and managers of start-ups to the issues they will face in financial management and the valuation of a new venture through its lifecycle. (Lec. 3/Online)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

FEINSTEIN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

NEW 500 | Engaging Communities for Change
(3 crs.) Engage the community in school improvement, enhance communication, and transform support into advocacy. Create a supportive school environment, promoting student success and well-being through collaborative engagement and a shared vision. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 501 | Legal and Ethical Issues in Educational Leadership
(3 crs.) Examine the legal foundation of schools and educational policy, analyzing cases, statutes, and constitutional provisions. Explore legal, ethical, and political issues, including due process, discipline, and rights of marginalized students. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 502 | Fiscal Management for Educational Leaders
(3 cr.) Analyze systems for financing U.S. public schools. Examine Rhode Island's financing, budgeting, facilities finance, purchasing, and entrepreneurship. Prioritize legal matters, business ethics, diversity, and equity in budget allocations. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 503 | Operations & Management for Educational Leaders
(3 crs.) Integrate organizational theories and leadership models for school operations and management. Explore resource management, school improvement planning, team engagement, and efficient school operations. Emphasize decision-making to establish dynamic learning communities. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 504 | Program Evaluation for Educational Leaders
(3 crs.) Introduce program planning, evaluation, and data-driven decision making. Enhance curricula and assessment programs. Develop and assess educational programs, making informed decisions to continue, adjust, or discontinue based on evaluation evidence. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 505 | Supervision of Instruction
(3 crs.) Focus on the principal's role in enhancing classroom instruction through supervision, evaluation, and faculty development. Explore supervisory strategies, equity, access, and engagement. Cultivate high-performing schools with accountability, improvement, and collaboration. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 506 | Instructional and Curriculum Leadership
(3 crs.) Explore the principal's role as an instructional leader promoting collaborative culture and shared decision-making. Align, monitor, and refine instruction and curriculum for diverse needs and standards. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 507 | Managing Human Capital
(3 crs.) Examine elements of effective human resources management for equitable teaching and learning. Explore recruiting, hiring, development, conflict resolution, change management, and organizational climate. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 508 | Leading School & District Improvement
(3 crs.) Analyze and implement strategies for equitable educational improvements. Emphasize data-driven decision-making, change management, culturally responsive leadership, and developing comprehensive school improvement plans. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 510 | Internship/Seminar I
(3 crs.) Engage in practical field experiences in school administration, applying RISEL standards. Participate in seminars, reflect on experiences, and construct a leadership portfolio. Complete 200 hours under principal and university supervision. (Internship)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 511 | Internship/Seminar II
(3 crs.) Engage in practical field experiences in school administration, applying RISEL standards. Participate in seminars, reflect on experiences, and construct a leadership portfolio. Complete 200 hours under principal and university supervision. (Internship)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 520 | School Plant Planning
(3 crs.) Prepare aspiring superintendents and central office leaders in developing school building specifications. Learn planning for new and remodeled buildings, assessing facility needs, soliciting support, site selection, design, and maintenance. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW 521 | Supervision of Special Education Programs & Services
(3 crs.) Examine the multifaceted responsibilities of special education leadership at the district level. Investigate budget management, staffing, instructional practices, community partnerships, assessments, legal issues, and parent involvement. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LIFE SCIENCES

NRS 532 (GEO532) | Graduate Principles of Onsite Wastewater Treatment
(4 crs.) Cross-listed as (NRS) GEO532. Principles of onsite wastewater treatment, including physical, chemical, biological treatment processes in soils and different system designs. Evaluation of system performance, assessment of public and ecosystem health impacts and effects of climate change. (Lec. 3, Lab 1)
- ★ *Approved*

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY

OCG 550 | Environmental Isotope Geochemistry
(3 crs.) Covers fundamental isotope theory, discusses traditional and cutting-edge analytical methods, and explores isotope applications to important ecological and environmental processes across the geosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. (Lec. 3)
- ★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

==TABLED== **PHC 504 | The Process and Conduct of Clinical Research**
(3 crs.) Conduct of clinical research, from drafting the Investigator Brochure to submitting a New Drug Application (NDA). Key steps, regulatory issues regarding design and conduct of clinical trials, current controversies, ethical issues. (Lec. 3) Pre: PHC502 or by permission of instructor.

PHP 673 | Pharmacotherapy in Physical Therapy
(2 crs.) Basic principles of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and drug receptor function for medications that are encountered in physical therapy practice. Students will be able to identify common classes of pharmacological agents and discuss their potential effects on a physical therapy assessment and plan of care. (Online) Pre: Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) student in good standing or permission from the Instructor or Department Chair
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

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

PROGRAMS CHANGES *(vote by program)*

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Applied Mathematics ABM

The purpose of this proposal is to align the accelerated BM/MS program approved in Spring 2018 with Appendix K of the graduate manual. Appendix K was approved in Fall 2018 and our original accelerated BS/MS program (Bill_17-18-35B) does not allow students to double count any credits.

The current program without double counting is already successful. The purpose of this proposal is to bolster the number of graduate students in the MS in mathematics, applied track, and allow students to take advantage of Appendix K of the graduate manual.

The change we propose is to allow student in this Accelerated 5-year ABM program to double count up to 4 credits of a 500-level MTH/AMS course for both the BS in mathematics and MS in mathematics, applied track. This is in addition to counting up to 12 credits in advanced standing towards the MS in mathematics, applied track.
- ★ *Approved*

Physics - PhD

In keeping with the Graduate School's recommendation, the department proposes changing the credit requirement from 72 to 64 credits for the PHD.
- ★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Nursing Practice - DNP

Decreased total program required by 5 credits. The Graduate School recently changed the total number of credits required for a doctoral degree. This change will increase the program's competitiveness with other DNP programs in our region.

Editorial change made to above description: the course HDF527 is now a nursing course NUR517. The effective date was August 2023.
- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 Abstained*

NEW PROGRAMS *(vote by program)*

No new program proposals at this time

The council voted on the following program through virtual vote

Feinstein College of Education

Educational Leadership & Policy

The Educational Leadership & Policy program prepares transformational leaders to drive meaningful change, meet the demands of modern educational environments, and contribute significantly to educational improvement in Rhode Island and beyond. Graduates will be eligible for initial PK-12 Building Level Administrator certification in Rhode Island.
- ★ *Approved*

VII. **Adjournment**
- ★ *Chairperson Saint-Eloi Cadely asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.*