

Graduate Council Meeting No. 571 September 8, 2025 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Emilijia Djurdjevic, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely, Justin Watkins, Brett Still, Ami Vyas, Karolina Wojcik, Minsuk Shim, Araceli Bonifant, Denise Coppa, Ashlea Rundlett, Nausad Miyan, Stephen Licht, Valerie Karno, Kathy Donohue, Joanna Burkhardt

Council Members Absent: David Rowley

Graduate School Present: Colleen Mouw, Kimberly Jimenez, Corinne Kulesh, Cara Mitnick, Eric Beretta

I. Call to order

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

II. Introductions

- ★ *New and returning members were introduced along with their roles and responsibilities. New members this year were: Valerie Karno, Stephen Licht, Denise Coppa, Joanna Burkhardt and Kathy Donohue*

III. Approval of Minutes - [Meeting No. 570, March 31, 2025](#)

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting no. 570*
 - *Approved*

IV. Conferral of August 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 August 2025 graduation.*
 - *Approved*

V. Announcements

A. Changes to Graduate School staffing (Mouw)

1. Dr. Colleen Mouw is the new Acting Dean of the Graduate School and also serves as the Associate Dean. The Dean position was posted and Dr. Mouw is in the candidate pool.
2. Fenina Buttler is the new digital communications coordinator.
3. Jeffrey Chen moved from our enrollment team to our admissions team after Heidi Bucci accepted another position.
4. Jiqi Wu also joined our admission department.
5. There is an ongoing search for an enrollment service representative.

B. Enrollment Update (Kulesh)

1. *Dr. Kulesh noted an 11% increase for Fall 2025 applications compared to the previous year and announced that applications for Summer and Fall 2026, and Spring 2027 are*

now available in the new Slate system. She also introduced a monthly newsletter for graduate program directors to provide timely updates and information.

C. Professional Development (Mitnick)

1. Dr. Mitnick presented updates on graduate professional development programs, iDiversity and Inclusion Badge Program (DIBP) and Equitable and Inclusive Teaching and Pedagogy Badge Program (EITP), with registration now open for both. She highlighted the rebranding of the Graduate Writing Center to the Graduate Writing and Presenting Lab, and introduced a new grant writing tool developed by Heather Johnson, which is now available to students, faculty, and postdocs. Upcoming events and various workshops were announced, and encouraged faculty to promote these resources to their students.

D. Upcoming Events (Mouw)

1. Dr. Mouw announced the following events: New Program Directors Meeting on Friday, Oct. 10 - 10-11:30 am, the Annual Program Directors Meeting and the Annual Faculty Summit in the Spring 2026.

2. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty (Mouw)

Melissa Baker, Outside Scholar, COB

Sarah K. Yeo, Outside Scholar, CELS

Matthew Cerny, Outside Scholar, COP

Laura Forastiere, Outside Scholar, COP

Lindsey Steinzor, Outside Scholar, CHS

Carly M. Tribull, Outside Scholar, CELS

Stephen P. Powers, Outside Scholar COE

William Burns, Clinical, CHS

Hanan Mogawer, Teaching Professor, CAS

Anna J. Mercer, Outside Scholar, CELS

Diane Martins, Emeritus Professor, CON

Michael Toomey, Outside Scholar, COB

Amanda T. P. Alker, Tenure-Track, COP

Caroline E. F. Pukall, Outside Scholar, CHS

Rebecca Lebeau, Outside Scholar, COB

Bryan Oakley, Outside Scholar, GSO

Jon Nelson, Associate Professor, CELS

Sung-Yeul Park, Tenure Track, COE

Steve Winkel, Outside Scholar, COB

Sharon Franzetta, Outside Scholar, COB

Ting-Yu Shih, Tenure Track, COE

Jennifer Beninson, Outside Scholar, CELS

Frank E. Fish, Outside Scholar, CELS

Ying Zhang, Outside Scholar, CHS

Laken S. Ganoë, Outside Scholar, CELS

Ronald W. Sutherland, Outside Scholar, CELS

Megan Ryan Detloff, Outside Scholar, CELS

Richard Proce, Adjunct, CAS

Adam Moore, Tenure Track, FCE

Marc Parlange, Tenure track, COE

Bailey Miller, Tenure track, COP

VI. New Business

A. [Graduate Council Committee Appointments](#) (Mouw)

1. Committee members' assignments for the upcoming year were reviewed with members being assigned based on their preference.

★ Motion to approve Graduate Council Committee Appointments approved

B. EGRA Awards (Mouw)

1. Application will be launched mid-September with a mid-October deadline. Information is posted on the Graduate School website.

C. Mentoring Program Initiative (Mouw)

1. *Dr. Mouw plans to continue the graduate mentoring program initiated last year, with a focus on providing mentorship training for faculty and students. She is working with the Provost Office and the URI foundation on financial pieces to invest more in this effort.*
- D. *Emerging Student Issues (Mouw)*
1. *Dr. Mouw discussed graduate housing issues, noting that Graduate Village will be entirely vacated during construction of a new facility, with current leaseholders potentially offered on-campus housing, though details remain unclear. She shared that graduate students have secured monthly meetings with administration about housing concerns through their union contract. Dr. Mouw also addressed new campus fees, emphasizing that while she was not involved in their implementation, she would work to improve transparency in future fee decisions.*

VII. Adjournment - 3:40pm

★ *Chair Saint-Eloi Cadely asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.*