

Graduate Council Meeting No. 553 March 6, 2023 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: James Agostinucci, Araceli Bonifant, Patricia Crawford, Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Cheryl Foster, Shingo Goto, Rabia Hos, Aaron Ley, Scott McWilliams, Melissa Omand, Martha Rojas, Angela Slitt, Karen Walton Morse, Jing Jian Xiao

Council Members Absent: Ali Akanda

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

I. Call to order

- ★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm by Chair Angela Slitt.*

II. Approval of Minutes - Meeting No. 552, February 13, 2023

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting number 552*
 - *Approved*

III. Announcements

A. Professional development update (*Mitnick*)

1. Associate Director Mitnick announced the upcoming Professional Development programs that include a Thesis & Dissertation Orientation, 'Conquering the Cover Letter' workshop, 'Where to Connect and What to Say: Networking Strategies for Graduate Students' workshop, the URI JC Penny Suit-up event, the 'Writing Outlines to Improve (and Accelerate) Your Writing Project' workshop, Test taking Strategies Seminar, and celebrating Women's Day event. Associate Director Mitnick highlighted that she and Associate Director Kulesh attended College of Engineering's Admitted Students Day to speak on Graduate School's extra curricular. Graduate School can attend events like these

B. Graduate School Fellowships & Scholarships Update (*Mouw*)

1. Associate Dean Mouw presented data on fellowship and scholarship applications received and awarded within the past 5 years. These awards are very competitive and the Graduate School does its best to distribute the awards across colleges/programs.

C. Admission & enrollment data update (*Kulesh*)

1. Associate Director Kulesh presented data of submitted applications. There are 1,062 submitted applications in GradCAS with 300 formal offers made. In EngineeringCAS there are 126 completed applications with 60 formal offers made. In BusinessCAS there are 76 completed applications with 29 formal offers made. In CSDCAS there are 183 completed applications with 35 formal offers made. In PTCAS there are 387 completed applications with 38 formal offers made. So far there are 1,839 inquiries received.

D. Strategic planning & key performance indicators update (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef provided an update on the key performance indicators for the Graduate School which is enrollment at the Master's and Ph.D. level. The measurement will be by degrees conferred and enrollment total. The goal is to increase Ph.D. degree conferrals by 50% and Master's degree

conferrals by 75% over 5 years and doubling the total graduate enrollment in 10 years. The Graduate School is currently drafting a strategic plan focusing on the impact the Graduate School can make. The new model for Professional Masters programs is in the works.

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

Samuel, A. Soule, Tenure-track, GSO
H. Zafer Yuksel, Tenure-track, COB
Jason D. Chaytor, Adjunct, COE
Drew Zhang, Tenure-track, COB
Steve Liu, Tenure-track, COB
Matthew J. Cabral, Adjunct, COE
Constantine Anagnostopoulos, Adjunct, COE
Martin K. Nielsen, Outside Scholar, CELS
Kira Mizell, Adjunct, CELS
Elisabeth Widom, Adjunct, CELS
Martin J. Bide, Emeritus, COB
Simon L. Dove, Outside Scholar, CELS/COP
Christopher Kincaid, Tenure-track, GSO

IV. New Business

A. MPS and PSM Programs Update (*Mouw & DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef introduced the Master's of Professional Studies (MPS) program. The 30 credit master's degree consists of two certificate degrees and two additional courses. The Professional Science Master's degree will consist of a single science certificate and a selection of business-relevant courses, such as leadership, ethics, finance, etc. The College of Business and College of Pharmacy are currently creating an PSM program and we anticipate more in the near future..

B. Revisions to Graduate Manual sections 5.31, 7.54, 4.25.1

★ *Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Graduate Manual sections 5.31, 7.54, 4.25.1*

- *Approved*
- *2 Council Members Abstained*

C. Revisions to Graduate Manual section 8

★ *Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Graduate Manual section 8*

- *Approved*

D. Revisions to Graduate Manual section 10

★ *Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Graduate Manual section 10*

- *Approved*

V. Graduate New Program & Tracks (proposals through Kualii) (*DeBoef*)

NOTICE OF CHANGE

Fisheries Science Graduate Certificate - Change in credit requirements, courses and description.

★ *Approved*

International Relations MA - Change in course requirements and description

★ *Approved*

NEW PROGRAM AND TRACK PROPOSALS

Coastal Resilience Graduate Certificate - The Coastal Resilience Graduate Certificate Program provides students and professionals with advanced training needed to find professional employment in the field of coastal resilience.

★ *Motion to table the new program proposal for the Coastal Resilience Graduate Certificate*

- *Approved*

Education Ph.D. - The Ph.D. in Education prepares equity-oriented scholars to apply, critique, design, and implement cutting edge research to improve educational opportunities across all levels of the educational spectrum.

★ *Approved*

VI. Graduate Curriculum (proposals through Kualii) (Mouw)

400-LEVEL NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

ELE 446 Introduction to Power Electronics

(3 crs.) Cross-listed as (ELE 446) ELE 556. Principles and applications of Power Electronics, including power devices and DC/DC converters. Magnetic circuit theory. Fundamentals of dc-dc inverters, ac-dc rectifiers, direct ac-ac converters, and applications to three-phase systems. (Lec. 3) Pre: ((ELE 212 or 220 or OCE 206) and ELE 313 and MTH (244 or 362)) or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

500-LEVEL NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

CSC 546 Algorithms for Big Data

(4 crs.) Explore algorithms for data that outpaces computing. Mathematically rigorous models for designing efficient algorithms for large data sets. Sketching and streaming, locality-sensitive hashing, entropy-scaling, manifold learning, and others. (Seminar) Pre: CSC 440 and permission of the instructor

★ *Approved*

NEW 598 Integrated and Applied Capstone

(3 crs.) In this course, students integrate knowledge and concepts acquired during two different certificate programs offered by URI Online through development of a project related to a problem of practice. During the project, students engage in the process of identifying, evaluating and developing a solution to address the problem and present it to a non-expert audience. Pre: Admission is required to the Master of Professional Studies (new program), completion of the requirements for two URI online graduate certificate programs, and completion of MPS Applied Leadership and Ethics (new course and new course code)none

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

(TABLE) LHR 546 Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

(3 crs.) Examination of the interpersonal dynamics of negotiations and conflict resolution processes, including interest-based or collaborative bargaining in a variety of contexts; e.g. labor relations, community, environmental, divorce, racial, commercial. (Lec. 3 - online) Pre: graduate standing or permission of Labor Research Center Director.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

EDC 597 Foundations in Multilingual Learner Education for Admin

(3crs.) This course provides foundational knowledge of issues related to education for Multilingual Learners (MLLs). Participants will learn about federal and state level policies, research on language acquisition and cultural responsiveness, and evaluate district and school level practices to improve education for MLLs. All learning will be directly aligned to the Rhode Island Standards for Educational Leaders (RISEL). (Online) Pre: Currently hold a school-based leadership certification (e.g. administrator, superintendent); permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

EDC 598 Advanced Study in Multilingual Learner Education for Admin

(3 crs.) Participants learn about language assistance programs, how to staff such programs, instructional methods and approaches for MLLs, the importance of multilingualism and equitable assessment practices for MLLs, how to evaluate curriculum choices and become an agent of change to improve education for MLLs in their district and/or school. (Online) Pre: Currently hold a school-based leadership certification (e.g. administrator, superintendent); permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES**SAF 547 Political Ecology for Environmental and Life Sciences**

(3 crs.) This seminar gives graduate students in environmental and life sciences an interdisciplinary foundation in social science dimensions of their discipline(s) and topic(s) through introduction to the field of political ecology. (Seminar) Pre: Graduate standing. Seniors may join the course with permission of the instructor.

★ *Approved*

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY**(TABLE) OCG 577 Modeling the Marine Carbon Cycles**

(3 crs.) Development of idealized mathematical and numerical models of the marine carbon cycles over various spatial and temporal scales. The numerical modeling component, using Python, accommodates beginner programmers. (Lecture) Pre: none

600-LEVEL NEW COURSE PROPOSALS**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES****EDC 624 Applied Educational Quantitative Data Analysis**

(3 crs.) Expanding the multiple regression framework introduced in previous coursework to include nested data, longitudinal data, and non-continuous outcome variables. (Lec. 3) Pre: Admission to the Education PhD Program and completion of EDP 613 or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

EDC 625 Engaged Research Apprenticeship in Education

(3 crs.) The course offers students an opportunity to delve deeply into an educational research project under the supervision of a faculty member. This course is designed to foster robust research skills and a holistic learning community where students learn from their faculty mentor and each other. Working in teams, students will develop research skills such as: data collection, data analysis, and manuscript writing. (Lec. 3) Pre: Admission to the Education PhD Program and permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

400-LEVEL COURSE CHANGES**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES****MAF 496 International Development Seminar**

(3 crs.) Seminar for advanced-level students interested in deepening their knowledge of global sustainable development challenges and solutions, focus on the global South. (Seminar) Pre: MAF 350/NRS 300 or permission of instructor.

Change in title and allowing for graduate credit

★ *Approved*

PSC 435 Theories of International Conflict

(4 crs.) Analysis of theories of international conflict and political violence. Topics may include interstate war, rivalry, civil war, ethnic and religious conflict, and terrorism. (Lec. 3, Project 3) Pre: PSC 210 or 211 or 310 or permission of the instructor.

Change in description, prerequisites, and allowing for graduate credit

★ Approved

PSC 431 International Relations

(4 crs.) Analysis of the various theories of international relations and study of the major factors influencing the politics of international conflict, trade, organizations, and other interactions between international actors. (Lec. 3, Project 3) Pre: PSC 212 or 310 or permission of instructor. (D1) (C2)

Allowing for graduate credit

★ Approved

500-LEVEL COURSE CHANGES

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

EGR 501 Numerical Methods for Engineers

(3 crs.) An introduction to numerical analysis and programming tools for engineers focusing on Finite Difference formulations. Implementation of the numerical methods includes common engineering Partial Differential Equations. The programming will cover fundamentals and additional tools in data processing, analysis, and visualization. Pre: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

Change in title, prerequisites, and description

★ Approved

EGR 525 Pathways for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Defense

(3 crs.) Pathways to Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Defense (PIE-D) takes an interdisciplinary approach to America's hardest national security challenges. These complex challenges require multi-faceted teams integrating policy, economics, and technology. (Lec. 3) Pre: Senior standing or permission of instructor.

Change in title and description

★ Approved

ELE 562 Biomedical Instrumentation Design

(3 crs.) Fundamentals of biomedical instrumentation, biocompatibility, medical device materials; safety, noise rejection, biomedical signal processing; measuring, recording, monitoring, and therapeutic devices. Not for undergraduate credit. Not open to students who have credit in ELE 489 or BME 461. (Lec. 3) Pre: graduate standing in electrical engineering or permission of instructor.

Delete course

★ Approved

(TABLE) ELE 588 Applied Machine Learning

(3 crs.) Introducing the foundations and methods of machine learning for rapidly growing applications in engineering. Topics include neural networks, decision tree learning, ensemble learning, support vector machines, reinforcement learning, among others. (Lec. 3) Pre: ELE 509 or permission of instructor.

Change in title, credits, prerequisites, and description

★ Approved

VII. Adjournment - 3:32 PM

★ Chairperson Slitt asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on April 10, 2023



Brenton DeBoef, Dean of the Graduate School