



Graduate Council Meeting No. 555 September 11, 2023 via Zoom | Minutes

Council Members Present: Alessandra Adami, Ali Akanda, Araceli Bonifant, Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Emilijia Djurdjevic, Marta Gomez-Chiarri, Aaron Ley (joining on behalf of Ping Xu), Karen Morse, Showrov Rahman, Martha Rojas, David Rowley, Hans Saint-Eloi Cadely, Jowusu Sarfo, Yang Shen, Minsuk Shim, Angela Slitt, Karen Walton Morse

Council Members Absent: Patricia Crawford, Corinne Kulesh

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

I. Call to order

- ★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm by Chair Angela Slitt.*

II. Approval of Minutes - Meeting No. 554, April 10, 2023

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting number 554*
 - *Approved*
 - *6 council members abstained*

III. Conferral of August Graduate Degrees (DeBoef)

- ★ *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 2023 graduation.*
 - *Approved*

IV. Announcements

A. Professional Development (*Mitnick*)

1. Director Mitnick provided a brief overview of the services provided by the Graduate School Professional Development department, the Graduate Writing Center, and the Graduate Student Success Coaching services. Graduate TA Training consisted of 5 parts; Mental Health First Aid Training for Graduate TAs, Self-Paced TA Training Brightspace Modules, Intro & Refresher on Brightspace, Live Virtual TA Workshop and Breakfast on the Quad. Council members were reminded to review the Graduate School Newsletter for updates, upcoming events and job opportunities for students as well as the Handshake platform. Some of the Graduate Writing Center upcoming events are a NSF GRFP Proposal Writing Group, Thesis/Dissertation Proposal Writing Group, and a GWC Accountability Wiring Hours. The Graduate School is hosting a Three Minute Thesis competition.

B. Applications & admission update (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef announced that the overall admission application numbers increased by 12%. Enrollment numbers are down, encouraged to remind students to register for courses.

C. Tuition for externally-supported students (*DeBoef*)

1. Dean DeBoef announced that the tuition rate for graduate students supported on external grants (research assistants), starting Fall 2024, will be at a flat tuition rate of \$12,000.

D. External Student Funding incentive (*Mouw*)

1. Associate Dean Mouw recapped the New Student Orientation event. Students are enrolled into a Brightspace module that contains resources for onboarding as a new student. A live orientation

session was held on August 15th and an in-person session was held on September 5th. The in-person event consisted of a campus and library tours, what to expect, Professional Developments, Proposal planning session, and mentoring relationships.

2. Associate Dean Mouw introduced a new Graduate Fellowship Incentive Program. A graduate student who has received an external fellowship could be eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Additional information and eligibility can be found on the Graduate School's funding page.
- E. December Commencement Ceremony, December 16, 2023 (*DeBoef*)
1. Dean DeBoef announced that there will be a combined December commencement ceremony with undergrad and graduate students. The ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, December 16th.
- F. Summer Curriculum approval update (*Mouw*)
1. Associate Dean Mouw presented the curriculum reviewed by the summer curriculum committee on July 10th and August 8th.
- G. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty (*Mouw*)
- Niels-Viggo S. Hobbs, Lecturer/ Teaching Professor, CELS
 - Ashwin Sarma, Adjunct, COE
 - Teri Araonowitz, Outside Scholar, CON
 - Matthew T Calestino, Adjunct, CELS
 - Hannah Francis, Assistant Professor, CAS
 - Danny Willis, Outside Scholar, CON
 - Karlis Kaugar, Outside Scholar/ URI CIO, COB
 - Kun Gao, Outside Scholar, GSO
 - Colin M Orians, Outside Scholar, CELS
 - Peter P. Sullivan, Outside Scholar, GSO
 - Muhammad Hasan Ashraf, Outside Scholar, COB
 - Jennifer R. Mammen, Outside Scholar, CON
 - Andrew Davies, Associate Professor, CELS
 - Paige Ramsdell, Outside Scholar / URI Assistant Dean, CHS
 - Lauren Freeman, Outside Scholar, COE
 - Bradford Knight, Assistant Professor, COE
 - David Townson, Professor, CELS
 - Cheryl Wilga, Professor/ Associate Dean, CELS

V. New Business

- A. Introduction of Graduate Council Members (*Slitt and DeBoef*)
1. The graduate Council took turns introducing themselves.
- B. Graduate Council Role, Responsibilities, and Overview (*Slitt and DeBoef*)
1. Chair Slitt reminded members that the council meeting calendar invites have been sent. The council was surveyed regarding holding an in-person council meeting. One of the winter meetings might be held hybrid, the council will be informed of location and date. Dean DeBoef explained the roles of the council and the committee commitments. The council will review about 15 EGRA applications in November. Chair Slitt and Dean DeBoef emphasized to the council members to report back to their programs and seek feedback from their program on proposed changes or questions.
- C. Graduate Council Committee Appointments (*DeBoef*)
1. Dean DeBoef presented the committee assignments to the council.
 - ★ *Motion to approve the Graduate Council Committee appointments*
 - *Approved*
- D. Graduate School Strategic Plan (*Mouw*)
1. Associate Dean Mouw presented the six goals and strategies the Graduate School is planning to address. 1) Develop and support a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant graduate community, 2) Increase access, recruitment, and retention, 3) Provide comprehensive Professional Development, 4) Elevate research, scholarship and creative expression, 5) Develop innovations in Graduate Education, and 6) Ensure operational excellence and continuous improvement.
 - a) The University's KPI measurement for graduate education will be numbers of graduate 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 double the total graduate enrollment in 10 years. Associate Dean Mouw presented the Graduate School's KPIs.

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

NEW PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY:

(TABLE) Cannabis Sciences Certificate

The graduate certificate in cannabis sciences is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills required for the research and development of safe, reliable, and functional cannabis products. Investigate research questions and solve operational challenges in cannabis pharmacology, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing, and analytical/bioanalytical method development and validation.

(TABLE) Pharmaceutical Development Certificate

The Certificate in Pharmaceutical Development will train students to design and articulate the product life cycle of a candidate drug molecule from initial identification through commercial launch, describe the regulations governing this development as well as the roles and responsibilities of each operational group, and relate the idea of a whole team approach to the success of a product launch.

VII. Graduate Curriculum (Kuali Agenda) (Mouw)

COURSE CHANGES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS:

(TABLE) MAC 507 | International Accounting

Description, Accelerated Online

(3 crs.) Covers interpretation of international financial statements, focusing on foreign currency exchange, comparative accounting principles and disclosures, and audit reports. Uses actual financial statements in case analysis. (Lec. 3/Online) Pre: ACC (BUS) 402 or permission of instructor.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY:

BPS 502 | Drug Development

Description, Accelerated Online

(3 crs.) Cross-listed as (BPS) PHC 502. Scientific and regulatory aspects of drug development from discovery to market, exemplified by URI research. (Online) Pre: graduate standing in Pharmacy or permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

NEW COURSES

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES:

PHL 553 | Philosophy of Science Communication

(3 crs.) Exploration of issue in scientific communication from a philosophical perspective, using case studies and class discussion to evaluate the roles objectivity, values, standpoint, and ideology have on scientific production and consumption. (Seminar)

★ *Approved*

(TABLE) MTH 910 | Seminar for graduate teaching assistants in mathematics

(1 cr.) Preparing students for their role as teaching assistants, including classroom management skills, understanding cultural differences. (Seminar) Must be taken for a total of 2 credits. Pre: graduate teaching assistant. S/U only. Pre: mathematics graduate teaching assistant status

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS:

(TABLE)LHR 546 | Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

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) Pre: graduate standing or permission of Labor Research Center Director.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING:

(TABLE)NUE 474 | Space Nuclear Propulsion and Power

(3 crs.) Design and analysis of nuclear propulsion systems for space and terrestrial nuclear engines and power reactors for Moon and Mars missions. (Lec. 3) Pre: MTH 244 or permission of instructor.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY:

(TABLE)BPS 506 | Drug Development II

(3 crs.) This course covers the scientific and operational aspects of drug development from drug candidate selection through license applications (IND, NDA, BLA) and pre-approval inspections. (Online) Pre: Graduate standing in the College of Pharmacy or by permission of instructor.

(TABLE)BPS 510 | Pharmaceutical Regulatory Compliance and Product Quality

(3 crs.) Examines concepts associated with regulatory compliance, quality assurance and drug product quality in the pharmaceutical industry particularly in relation to drug product development of both small molecule drugs and biologics. (Online) Pre: Graduate standing in the College of Pharmacy or by permission of instructor.

(TABLE)BPS 512 | Biologics and Biosimilars

(3 crs.) A comprehensive overview of biologics and biosimilars from discovery to FDA approval including target identification, manufacturing, quality control, regulatory approval, and delivery and pharmacoeconomic considerations. (Online) Pre: BPS 502, graduate standing in the College of Pharmacy, or by permission of instructor.

(TABLE)BPS 520 | Cannabinoid Pharmacology

(3 crs.) Investigates the endocannabinoid system and the use of cannabinoids to modulate biological processes. Explores delivery modes, bioavailability, mechanism of action, and therapeutic potential of the major cannabinoids. (Online)

(TABLE)BPS 522 | Cannabis Extraction Processes and Laboratory Testing

(3 crs.) Explores relevant extraction processes of the Cannabis plant to ultimately isolate metabolites (cannabinoids and terpenes). Examines laboratory testing procedures and workflows for composition analysis, contaminant analysis, and quantification. (Online)

(TABLE)BPS 523 | Formulation and Manufacturing of Cannabis Products

(3 crs.) Guides students through the process of developing safe and functional cannabis products. Explores formulation development and good manufacturing practices (GMPs) to produce safe and reliable products. (Online)

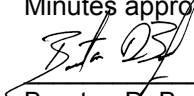
(TABLE)BPS 524 | Analytical and Bioanalytical Techniques in Cannabis Science

(3 crs.) Examine innovative techniques for cannabis product and biological matrix analysis for cannabinoids and their metabolites. Instrument operation and the use of mass spectrometry in pharmacokinetic analysis will be explored. (Online)

VIII. Adjournment

- ★ *Chairperson Slitt asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.*

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on October 2, 2023



Brenton DeBoef, Dean of the Graduate School