

Graduate Council Meeting No. 557 November 6, 2023 via Zoom | Minutes

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

Council Members Absent: Ali Akanda, Susan DeSanto-Madeya, Yang Shen

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

I. Call to order - 2:02 pm

- ★ *The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Chair Slitt.*

II. Approval of Minutes - Meeting No. 556, October 2, 2023

- ★ *Motion to approve the minutes for meeting no. 556*
 - *Approved*

III. Announcements

- A. Upcoming College Program Directors Meetings (*Brenton*)
 - 1. Dean DeBoef informed the council that the Graduate School is having meetings with each of the college's Program Directors and Associate Deans to allow for questions regarding the new budget model and discuss the current enrollment number for their programs.
- B. Graduate Program Learning and Success Report (formerly known as program assessment) (*Corinne*)
 - 1. Director Kulesh announced that the new Graduate Program Learning and Success Reporting will take into effect Fall 2023. Some changes include the focus will be on learning and student success outcomes by programs, 3-year cycle, questionnaire will become the report, program data files will be provided to each of the Program Directors, Amy Correia is the assessment coordinator and is led by the Graduate School. Dr. Kulesh presented examples of the questionnaire sections.
- C. Professional Development (*Mitnick*)
 - 1. Director Mitnick highlighted last week programs which included a LinkedIn Headshots session, Director Mitnick spoke with Cyber Security students on job search and also spoke with Nutrition students on elevator pitch/research summary, and an elevator pitch session run by Sunshine Menezes. There is also a three-minute thesis competition coming soon. A list of upcoming programs were shared with the council.
- D. Diversity Updates (*Mouw/Mitnick*)
 - 1. Associate Dean Mouw presented an update on the Diversity and Inclusion Badge Program (DIBP). Graduate students earn a badge by completing a minimum of five workshops. Students who earn a DIBP badge are able to return and facilitate an existing workshop or develop a new one. For Fall 2023, there were 129 participants, 21 unique workshops offered, 17 facilitators (9 current graduate students and 2 recent alumni). Since 2017, 263 badges were awarded, 850 participants have taken at least one workshop, and on average 40-50% of the participants are new to the program each semester. Since summer 2020, 29 facilitators badges were awarded. On average 30-40% are current students and 20% are DIBP alumni.

2. Associate Dean Mouw shared the diversity enrollment of graduate degree-seeking students at URI. Data highlighted a significant increase in Hispanic/Latino identifying, a small increase in Black/African American identifying, and 2+ races slowly increasing over time. Dr. Mouw presented a national comparison chart of doctoral students, state comparison chart, a graph of diversity index by degree type from Fall 2008 to Fall 2023, and a graph of graduate diversity enrollment by college.
 3. Director Mitnick presented an update on the second year of the Equitable and Inclusive Teaching and Pedagogy (EITP) Badge Program. There are 25-30 students registered for each of the five sessions. During the first year of the badge program, 18 graduate students earned an EITP badge. The Graduate Writing Center offered two sessions on NSF GRFP writing groups
- E. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty (*Mouw*)
- David A Weisberger, Research Associate, CELS*
 - Vicente Diaz, Outside Scholar, CELS*
 - Johanna Harvey, Adjunct, CELS*
 - Amy Broemmel, Tenure-Track/Associate Dean, COEDU*
 - Christine Eisenhower, Clinical Associate Professor, COP*
 - Susan M Schembre, Outside Scholar, CHS*
 - Keith B Maddox, Outside Scholar, CHS*
 - Angela N. Google, Assistant Professor, CELS*
 - Meghana Parikh, Outside Scholar, CELS*

IV. New Business

- A. EGRA Reviews due Friday, November 17, 2023
 1. Dean DeBoef reminded the council that the EGRA review scores are due Friday, November 17th. At the next Graduate Council meeting, there will be time designated for the council to meet within their peer group to discuss scores.
- B. Revision to the Graduate School Manual, [section 11.24](#)
 1. Proposed manual change to section 11.24 to remove the restriction of summer registration to take an examination.
 - ★ *Motion to approve the proposed changes to Graduate School manual section 11.24*
 - *Approved*
 - *1 council member abstained*
- C. Revision to the Graduate Manual, [section 9.11](#)
 1. Proposed manual change to section 9.11 to prevent the exclusion of 400-level special topics and research courses as counting towards graduate credit, thus allowing more flexibility for URI undergraduates who intend to pursue graduate degrees at URI.
 - ★ *Motion to approve the proposed changes to Graduate School manual section 9.11*
 - *Approved*

V. Graduate Curriculum ([Kuali Agenda](#)) (*Mouw*)

COURSE CHANGES

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE

HDF 511 | Child and Adolescent Development

**Create online version of existing course,
change in title/description**

(3 crs.) In this graduate-level course, students will learn about the biopsychosocial development of children and adolescents, the contexts in which they develop (homes, schools, neighborhoods), and the implications for intervention and prevention science. (Accelerated Online Program)

- ★ *Approved*
- ★ *1 council member abstained*

HDF 513 | Promotion of Healthy Adulthood and Aging**Create online version of existing course,
change in title/description**

(3 crs.) This graduate-level course is designed to cover: (a) the relationship between biopsychosocial factors and healthy aging, and (b) risk, resilience, and protective factors for physical and mental health in adulthood and later life. (Accelerated Online Program)

★ *Approved*

★ *1 council member abstained*

HDF 533 | Family Policy for Problem Prevention**Create online version of existing course,
change in title/description**

(3 crs.) In this graduate-level course, students will examine the political, socio-economic and cultural forces influencing development and implementation of national and local policies that impact families in the United States. (Accelerated Online Program)

★ *Approved*

★ *1 council member abstained*

HDF 536 | Family Health and Prevention Across the Lifespan**Create online version of existing course,
change in title/description**

(3 crs.) Students will learn to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families through evidence-based approaches to prevention and intervention. Fundamental concepts include the biopsychosocial model, health disparities and risk/resilience factors in families and across the lifespan. (Accelerated Online Program)

★ *Approved*

★ *1 council member abstained*

NEW COURSES**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES****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.

★ *Approved*

SCM 540 | Producing with Purpose: The Interview

(3 crs.) Students will evaluate, analyze and create connections between media and digital literacy strategies and inclusive science communication practices through role play, interview production, and the practice of listening and engagement. (Lec. 3)

★ *Approved*

WRT 501 | Ethical Foundations of User Experience (UX)

(3 crs.) Explores the ethics of designing experiences for users. Students gain an understanding of the opportunities and challenges of UX design and develop strategies to create human-centered, ethically sound designs. (Accelerated Online Program) Pre: Course is restricted to students enrolled in the URI Online Graduate User Experience Design Certificate Program.

★ *Approved*

WRT 502 | User Experience (UX) Research and Methods

(3 crs.) Research, methods, and data analysis for user experience projects. Students will design, conduct, and report their own UX studies, as well as communicate results to various stakeholders. (Accelerated Online Program) Pre: Course is restricted to students enrolled in the URI Online Graduate User Experience Design Certificate Program.

★ *Approved*

WRT 503 | User Experience (UX) and Microcopy Writing

(3 crs.) The course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the role and impact of effective writing in user-centered design. Through a combination of theoretical concepts and practical applications, students will develop the skills necessary to create clear, concise, and engaging microcopy for digital interfaces and interactions. (Accelerated Online Program) Pre: Course is restricted to students enrolled in the URI Online Graduate User Experience Design Certificate Program.

★ *Approved*

WRT 504 | Interaction Design

(3 crs.) Students develop original concepts and create interactive designs using current, industry-standard processes and technologies. Strong focus on designing for real people using applied, hands-on projects. (Accelerated Online Program) Pre: Course is restricted to students enrolled in the URI Online Graduate User Experience Design Certificate Program.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

BPS 506 | Chemistry, Manufacturing and Controls for Biopharmaceuticals

(3 crs.) This course focuses on the chemistry, manufacturing, and controls (CMC) for the development of biopharmaceutical products. CMC is a major part of the Biologics License Application (BLA) ensuring the drug is safe and effective over its lifecycle.

★ *Approved*

BPS 510 | Pharmaceutical Regulatory Compliance and Product Quality

(3 crs.) This course focuses on the key concepts associated with regulatory compliance, quality assurance and overall drug product quality for biopharmaceuticals particularly in relation to product development. (Online) Pre: Graduate standing in the College of Pharmacy or by permission of instructor.

★ *Approved*

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.

★ *Approved*

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)

★ *Approved*

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)

★ *Approved*

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)

★ *Approved*

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)

★ *Approved*

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

PROGRAMS CHANGES

COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL & LIFE SCIENCES:

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.

- ★ *Motion to table the program changes for Environmental and Natural Resource Economics PhD*
 - *Approved*
 - *1 council member abstained*

Environmental and Natural Resource Economics - MS

Removing GRE req. and adding alt. course

(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.

- ★ *Motion to table the program changes for Environmental and Natural Resource Economics MS*
 - *Approved*
 - *1 council member abstained*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE

Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Change in description and program length

The program description has been updated to (1) reflect current practice, and (2) describe a shorter program start to finish time for students. We propose to reduce the length of time from start to finish of the DPT program. The DPT program is currently on a 3 years/9 semesters schedule. We propose to change the time it takes for students to complete the program from 3 years (9 semesters) to 2.5 years (8 semesters). This change will be accomplished through the following mechanisms:

(1) We will add a “Term B” to the summer session of year 2 and move the only course in summer of year 3 (2 credits) to summer of year 2.

(2) We will align the full-time clinical experiences with the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) requirements. Although CAPTE requires 30 weeks of full-time clinical experiences, our DPT program currently offers 36 weeks of full-time clinical experiences. Because 36 weeks is not a requirement of CAPTE or the URI DPT program, we can reduce the number of clinical internship weeks without submitting a course change for the clinical experiences. This change will reduce the overall time to complete the program by 6 weeks.

(3) Students will begin their full-time clinical internships in May rather than August of their final year. They will complete 3, 10-week rotations with a 1-week break between each rotation. This change will reduce the overall time to complete the program by approximately 14 weeks.

(4) The above changes can be accomplished via by re-aligning the program curriculum to allow students to complete 110 credits and all associated requirements within 2.5 years (8 semesters). This program modification can occur without making changes to existing courses or program requirements. It should also be noted that students will continue to have breaks between semesters that are consistent with the URI academic calendar.

- ★ *Approved*

NEW PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

User Experience (UX) Design Graduate Certificate

The User Experience (UX) Design Graduate Certificate prepares students to embark on meaningful careers in the dynamic field of UX. Students learn the methodologies, technologies, and tools at the forefront of UX design. Graduates are equipped to make a positive impact on society by designing experiences that prioritize inclusivity, social justice, sustainability, and user well-being.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCE

Prevention Science Graduate Certificate

The graduate certificate in Prevention Science is a fully online, stackable professional program that will prepare students for a range of human services and health-related positions across a variety of sectors, particularly those in unlicensed fields who are looking to advance within their careers. The program integrates core skills across key areas related to lifespan development, health promotion, and disease prevention such as program development and evaluation, applied health research methods, social justice and health equity, and community engagement and advocacy.

★ *Approved*

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Graduate 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.

★ *Approved*

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.

★ *Approved*

VII. Adjournment

★ *Chair Slitt asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.*

Minutes approved by the Graduate Council on November 6, 2023



Brenton DeBoef, Dean of the Graduate School