



GSO Advisory Council Membership & By-Laws

Purpose:

The Advisory Council (the Council) of the University of Rhode Island (URI) Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) exists to advise the school on growth strategies in research, technology, and student opportunities, enhance the School's reputation worldwide, and advocate for and build philanthropic support. The GSO Advisory Council will serve as the leading venue for advancing GSO and Narragansett Bay Campus and partner interests, building its resources to ensure the greatest fulfillment of the campus mission.

Membership:

Members of the Council will be a diverse group of knowledgeable leaders external to the University of Rhode Island. They will be individuals of character who have professional experience in major sectors of the economy that rely or depend on the ocean, government and policy leaders, individuals with a demonstrated interest in ocean science and individuals with a deep and abiding passion for the ocean and its stewardship. The Council will have no formal or fiduciary authority but will serve as the leading venue for advancing GSO interests and building its resources to ensure the greatest fulfillment of its mission. The Council will comprise up to 25 members and personnel composition will reflect changing needs and conditions.

Council Member Roles

- **Advisors:** through discussions at the council meetings and informally throughout the year, members serve as a sounding board for the Dean and others, representing the standpoint of alumni, industry, government, community, partners, and friends whose perspective on the Graduate School of Oceanography is reflective of their engagements in the world at large. They are free to identify new ideas to meet the aforementioned mission of the Narragansett Bay Campus and GSO.
- **Advocates:** as informed insiders, members serve as ambassadors to create awareness and promote the work of GSO in their professional networks and home communities. They advocate for and create student opportunities for growth, employment, and learning.
- **Philanthropic supporters:** as volunteer leaders, in addition to their personal financial support, members are asked to support the fundraising priorities of the college by helping to identify and engage other supporters.

Member Responsibilities:

Council members are expected to be knowledgeable and informed advocates of the Graduate School of Oceanography. In carrying out the work of the Council, the specific duties and responsibilities of each individual member include:

- Understanding and supporting the vision, mission, philosophy, and values of the Graduate School of Oceanography.
- Acting as an advisor to the Dean, Dean's office staff, including Associate and Assistant Deans, faculty, and staff, on a broad range of issues including curricula, relations with stakeholder groups, diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and long-range strategic planning.
- Identifying and facilitating student placement in internship and career opportunities.
- A commitment to financially support and cultivate, solicit, and steward others to support GSO.
- Making a personal time commitment to GSO; participating in regularly scheduled Council meetings.
- Identifying successful leaders to be considered by the Dean for membership to the Council.
- Helping build important connections between GSO and relevant public and private sectors.
- Assisting in identifying industry and other blue economy sector leaders that will potentially engage with students and faculty in both formal and informal settings.
- Organizing/hosting or participating in events/meetings that advance the mission of GSO and introduce the Dean and other key GSO leaders to relevant experts and potential supporters.

Member Expectations:

Newly appointed members shall begin their term of office with the first regular meeting of the Council following their appointment by the Dean of the Graduate School of Oceanography. Council members are expected to:

- Maintain active participation in Council activities, including attending all Council meetings.
- Advise and assist in the development of growth strategies and feedback for GSO research, academic, and public engagement programs.
- Provide input to GSO programs based upon various perspectives, knowledge, and experience regarding regional, national, and global oceanography trends
- Advise and assist in fundraising efforts to attract new capital - for both current use and long-term purposes (including endowments and bequests) from private sector individuals, corporations, and foundations
- Demonstrate volunteer leadership by providing philanthropic support to GSO every year to the best of their ability.
- Highlight the accomplishments of GSO, its Dean and its scientists to societal leaders, building the School's presence, and developing philanthropic relationships.
- Provide input on strategies and identify opportunities to enhance the career development of GSO students and alumni.
- Make connections to individuals and organizations that have the potential to support GSO or partner with GSO on mutually beneficial activities.
- Promote GSO in its professional and outreach activities, including facilitating summer employment opportunities and professional development for students, staff, and faculty.

Appointment:

Council Members shall be appointed for three-year terms by the GSO Dean, and will participate to the extent possible in all meetings and activities of the Council. Regular membership shall be limited to two consecutive terms, with the second term voted on by the council and determined by the Dean. Members who maintain a proactive commitment to the mission of the Council may be reappointed by the Dean, or moved to an affiliate status as desired by the Dean and/or member. Members may be appointed at any time. Council members and the GSO community may submit nominations to the Dean.

Council Emeriti comprise prior members of the Advisory Council. They will be appointed by the Dean and will include those individuals who have demonstrated leadership and generosity by prior service on the GSO Advisory Council. Council Emeriti will serve as asked in related activities, but will not be required to attend council meetings.

Meetings:

Council meetings normally occur three times during the year, generally in the fall and the spring, with a shorter, virtual meeting during the winter. The Dean, in consultation with the Council Chair, shall prepare the agenda for each regular meeting. The agenda shall be distributed electronically to each member prior to a regular meeting. At each meeting, the Dean will briefly report on recent achievements, opportunities, and future plans. Faculty and student presentations may also be included on the agenda. The primary focus of each meeting will be on Council members' open discussions on a wide range of issues pertaining to GSO's strategic direction, fundraising, curriculum, faculty development, student life, as well as relationships with stakeholders.

Invited guests may attend meetings of the Council and may participate in the discussion. However, members may not send someone to represent them in their absence.

Meetings will consist of an open, public component, and a shorter, Executive Session with the Dean and GAC members.

Minutes of the Council meetings shall be distributed electronically to members within two weeks after each meeting.

Officers:

Officers of the Council shall consist of a Chair and a Vice Chair and hold two-year terms.

The Dean may make special appointments to fill a vacancy.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair.

The Dean shall delegate and facilitate all administrative duties including posting of notices, maintaining minutes of meetings, providing regular reports concerning fundraising and tangible results in the School as a result of the Advisory Council's efforts, and other such duties as may be requested from time to time by the Council. The Dean maintains the authority to revise these by-laws as goals and needs evolve.

Committees:

The Council shall form committees as necessary. Committees shall be standing or ad-hoc, with responsibilities and terms as determined by the Dean and the Council.

Quorum

Quorum for a regular meeting shall be one-third of the regular membership.

Revised: May, 2022