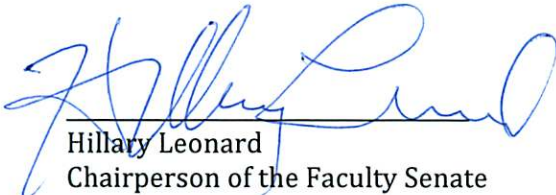


Serial Number #18-19-5B

TO: President David Dooley
FROM: Hillary Leonard, Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL titled, Curricular Report No. 2018-19-2 from the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate: Curricular Changes, is forwarded for your consideration.
2. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on October 18, 2018.
3. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
4. In accordance with Section 10, paragraph 4 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective November 8, 2018 three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; or (3) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum.


Hillary Leonard
Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

October 18, 2018

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairperson of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

- a. Approved ☒.
- b. Approved subject to Notice of the Council on Postsecondary Education ____.
- c. Disapproved ____.


Signature of the President

10.24.18
(date)

**Graduate Curricular Report # 2018-19-2
October 2018**

**SECTION II
Curricular Matters Which Require Confirmation
by the Faculty Senate**

Notices of Change

Arts & Sciences

Department of Communication Studies (See Appendix A)
Drop the GRE as admission requirement.

College of Environmental and Life Sciences

MESM (See Appendix B)
Drop the GRE as admission requirement for MESM.

Notice of Change form

Notice of Change for: Graduate Program, Department of Communication Studies

Date: March 9, 2018

A. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Name of institution

University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college

Department: Communication Studies

College: Arts and Sciences

3. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.

Initiation date: Immediate

First degree date: May 2019

4. Intended location of the program

Kingston

5. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages).

Drop the GRE as a requirement for applying to the graduate program (M.A.) in Communication Studies. After researching the utility of the GRE in predicting student outcomes, and also based on Professor Alycia Mosley Austen's presentation to the Department faculty on the usefulness of the GRE and the movement to drop it from consideration at various institutions and programs across the country, the faculty voted to rescind it as a requirement for the graduate program.

6. If applicable, please include the existing URI catalog language and proposed catalog changes indicated in Track Changes.

Admission requirements: Generally, a bachelor's degree with undergraduate credit in communication studies. Applicants should submit a paper with a research focus written for an undergraduate course. Students from other academic backgrounds may be admitted with the permission of the director of graduate studies, although some basic courses may have to be taken for no program credit. Nonnative speakers of English are expected to demonstrate proficiency in written and oral English communication (TOEFL score of 230 CBT or 88 iBT for admission; minimum of 250 CBT or 100 iBT, including 23 speaking score, for consideration for teaching assistantships. In all cases, the University minimum must be met on each of the four

Deleted: GRE General Test (current GRE test format with analytical writing, verbal, and quantitative sections is requested), not older than five years, and

sections of the TOEFL exam. Applications should be completed online using the Graduate School online portal; completed application packets with support materials should be sent directly to Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Communication Studies, 60 Upper College Road, Suite 1, URI, Kingston, RI 02881. Completed applications, including support materials, must be received by February 1 for applicants who wish to be considered for financial aid. Applications received after that deadline but before July 15 will be reviewed on a space-available basis until the program is filled.

Deleted: ; see web.uri.edu/graduate-school/apply/international-applicants/.

Deleted: (uri.edu/graduate-school)

7. Signature of the President

David M. Dooley

Notice of Change form

Notice of Change for: **Masters of Environmental Science and Management (MESM)**

Date: **09 April 2018**

A. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Name of institution

University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college

Department:

College: **CELS**

3. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.

Initiation date: **1 January 2019**

First degree date: **31 May 2020**

4. Intended location of the program **All campuses**

5. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages).

We request waiver of the GRE scores for applicants to the MESM program. Our reasons are: (1) GRE scores have no predictive value for international applicants whose native language is not English; (2) Taking GRE's is exceptionally difficult for many international applicants. For example, URI and the nation of Indonesia have a program to bring Indonesian professionals to URI for advanced training. There is only one GRE testing facility in all of Indonesia. Travelling to the testing site is a non-trivial time and financial burden on the applicants; (3) In our experience, GRE scores have very little predictive value of success for students who are returning to the University after working for a few years. MESM, a professional Master's degree, caters to this pool of applicants.

6. If applicable, please include the existing URI catalog language and proposed catalog changes **indicated in Track Changes**.

Admission requirements: **GRE and a Bachelor's degree in biological science, physical science, environmental science, natural resources, or engineering.**

7. Signature of the President

David M. Dooley