

**University of Rhode Island**  
**The Graduate School**  
**Graduate Council Meeting No. 407, December 16, 2005**  
**MINUTES**

**Council Members Present:** *Kathryn Branch, David Heskett, Chong Lee, Martin Sadd, Daniel Sheinen, David Smith, Sarina Wyant, Evelyn Yeaw*

**Others Present:** *Vice Provost L. Pasquerella, Associate Dean Harold Bibb, Associate Dean Judy Beckman, Donna Gray*

- I. ***The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.*** by Associate Dean Harold Bibb.
- II. ***The Minutes of Meeting No. 406*** were approved as amended.
- III. ***Vice Provost Discussion Items***
  - A. Vice Provost Pasquerella reported on the Council of Graduate School conference in Palm Springs. She and Associate Dean Beckman attended sessions on research ethics and will give more information in a report form. Associate Deans Bibb and Beckman attended a session on recruitment and retention.

Associate Dean Bibb reported that he also attended sessions on the new GRE and TOEFL testing formats and scoring. This issue will be discussed later.
  - B. Fund raising activities for deans of graduate schools. Associate Dean Beckman responded to Prof Yeaw's questions about funding opportunities from NIH for next year. Basically, funding for next year is level funding. Discussions based on concerns that all schools are facing. Discussed grant funding as well and the new online application for grants with a deadline of October 02.
  - C. Electronic Forms: Donna Gray discussed the progress made in researching the appropriate workflow and software to use in order to implement electronic processing of Graduate School activities. The possible workflow was discussed, as well as several university options offered including PDF using Adobe Professional, Open Source Portfolio (OSP) used for faculty reviews, and Remedy used for the computer help desk for tracking trouble tickets. The digital signature issue was discussed including possible outsourcing options and the level of security actually needed at URI.
  - D. Associate Dean Bibb discussed the new TOEFL standards and stated that the ETS (Educational Testing Service) standards were now at different levels than in the past. ETS is currently collecting data on national standards on student performance for comparison.

He also discussed the revision of GRE. The scoring will be different and the content will be slightly different, with an emphasis on new complex reasoning skills for October 2006. Departments will start seeing these changes for the Fall 07 semester.

Vice Provost Pasquerella raised the issue that writing samples on line offer no spell check capabilities. Associate Dean Bibb stated that even though the spelling and grammar may not be the greatest, the big focus is on critical and analytical thinking.

Prof. David Smith questioned whether another number will be introduced in the new scoring. Dean Bibb said yes and that the new scoring will be introduced to schools in upcoming informational mailings. Vice Provost Pasquerella stated that scoring will be done differently.

Dean Bibb also discussed the Bologna process standards for each country make it easier for students to move across European countries for their education with a uniform educational background report. He stated that some international schools offer a 3 years degree, some 3 and 4 year degrees and some just 4 year degrees. The 3 year schools find it to be more economical to the students, but will mean a thorough evaluation by us to compare the level of that 3 year education. It will be a few years while they work this new process out before we feel the effects at URI.

Prof. Martin Sadd stated that the 3 year bachelor could be connected to the 13 school years as opposed to 12 and Dean Bibb agreed.

Prof. Chong Lee asked what the motivation for Europe to develop this process was. Dean Bibb stated that in many European countries education is paid for by government. So to implement the process would be a huge economical savings. Associate Dean Beckman speculated that another reason could be politically motivated because the governments are implementing tuition charges in some countries for the first time.

#### ***IV. Announcements***

A. Associate Dean Harold Bibb announced the appointment of the following individuals to the Graduate Faculty:

Dr. Cheryl Hapke – Geosciences  
Dr. Ellen Flannery-Schroeder – Psychology  
Dr. Jae-Hun Park – Oceanography  
Dr. Nancy Kohler – Oceanography  
Dr. Cathleen Wigand – Oceanography  
Dr. James Carlton – Biological Sciences  
Dr. Kerstin Nilsson – Nursing  
Dr. Margareta Warren Stomberg – Nursing  
Dr. Miriam Reumann - History

B. Associate Dean Beckman thanked Prof. Martin Sadd for attending the Faculty Senate meeting while all Graduate School deans attended the Council of Graduate Schools conference.

#### ***V. Committee Reports***

A. Curriculum Committee

i. Old Business

Change Approved:

Proposal for Transportation Concentration in Master of Public Administration Program

ii. New Business

STEM Programs (other than Psychology) (David Heskett reported)

Courses Approved:

STA 536 Applied Longitudinal Analysis

Changes Approved:

MTH 420 Topics in Foundations – change in title, prerequisite

CSC 592 Special Topics in Computer Science – change in description

STA 592 Special Topics in Statistics – change in description

CSC MS Degree Requirements:

CSC 517 Design and Analysis of VLSI Systems – from the Computer Systems category to the Computer Architecture category and

change in thesis option requirements

OCG 576 Marine Microbiology – change in title and description

Non STEM Programs and Psychology (Judy Beckman and Katie Branch reported)

Courses Approved:

LSC 527 Information Literacy Instruction

LSC 518 International and Comparative Librarianship

PSC 312 Topics in Political Science

Changes Approved:

HIS 591 Directed Study or Research – change in prerequisite

Items Tabled:

PSY 696 Practicum: Teaching Psychology – This course proposal is being considered by the Curriculum sub-committee. Psychology Chair John Stevenson will be invited to the next curriculum sub-committee meeting for discussion.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Associate Dean Beckman discussed problems in approval of X courses which are not presented until late Spring to early June for approval for Fall. Specifically, this past spring there were problems with EVS 610X and with NRS545X. She spoke to Jack Humphrey. Basically, the Grad Council ends in April and doesn't reconvene until September. Dean Beckman has proposed that a process be put in place for Grad Council approval of such courses during the summer months, perhaps electronically. Prof. Martin Sadd asked if the Curriculum Committee would be included in the summer approval as well and Dean Beckman said yes. The Council charged the curriculum sub-committee with making a specific proposal to rectify these problems and suggested that it address particular issues:

- Meeting electronically until no later than July 15
- Allowing the Curriculum sub-committee to act for the Grad Council
- Instituting a mechanism to address issues regarding when committee members are unavailable.

***VI. Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.