

**University of Rhode Island**  
**The Graduate School**  
**Graduate Council Meeting No. 411, April 21, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**Council Members Present:** *Aine Cunningham, Katie Branch, Thomas Needham, Martin Sadd, Sarina Wyant, Evelyn Yeaw*

**Others Present:** *Vice Provost Lynn Pasquerella, Associate Dean Judy Beckman, Ms. Ruth Gormly, Prof. David Chelidze, Prof. James Kowalski, Prof. Beth Marcoux, Prof. Ying Sun*

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m.* by Associate Dean Judy Beckman.
- II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 410* were approved.
- III. Vice Provost Discussion Items*
  - A. Vice Provost Pasquerella reported that several applications have been received for the Council of Graduate School annual awards. The Graduate School is looking forward to continuing the tradition of recognizing outstanding graduate work.
  - B. Vice Provost Pasquerella recently attended the regional meeting of Council of Graduate Schools. Topics of discussion included the research ethics fellows program, trends in graduate education, and legal liability in relation to graduate students and whether universities are liable for failure to recognize and then protect students who are at risk. The impact of cuts from NIH and NFS funding in graduate education and ideas for strategizing in terms of lobbying on the national level for increased funding were also discussed.
  - C. Vice Provost Pasquerella noted that the Graduate School was getting ready for commencement.

***IV. Announcements***

- A. Associate Dean Judy Beckman announced the appointment of the following individuals to the Graduate Faculty:

Dr. Esther Peters – Natural Resource Sciences  
Dr. William Dewar – Oceanography  
Dr. Patricia Gallagher - Psychology
- B. Associate Dean Beckman announced that the selections for the Council of Graduate School Dissertation Awards will be announced by May 1. A total of nine submissions are now being reviewed.
- C. The Graduate Program Directors Information session will be held on Friday, April 28, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the large conference room in Green Hall. Topics of discussion will include: current issues in graduate programs; progress and annual review of

graduate students; international programs, and the graduate admissions process. The session will be of interest to new graduate directors and to existing graduate directors.

- D. The brochure for the Graduate Commencement ceremony was distributed to the members of the Graduate Council for review. The brochures were mailed out with invitations to all potential May 2006 graduates as well as to the graduates of December 2005 and August 2005 and 2006. Information on eligibility to march is included in the brochure.
- E. Associate Dean Beckman reminded the Graduate Council that the Graduate Studies, Outreach and Research Recognition Luncheon would be held on Friday, May 12, 12:00 noon at the University Club. All were invited to attend.

## V. *Committee Reports*

### A. Curriculum Committee

#### i. New Business

STEM Programs (other than Psychology) – presented by Prof. Martin Sadd

New Courses Approved:

MCE 663 Nonlinear Dynamics

ELE 564 Medical Imaging

ELE 565 Medical Image Processing Laboratory

Deletions Approved:

NUR 560 Ethical Theories, Nursing Practice and Health Care

ELE 488 Biomedical Engineering I

ELE 588 Biomedical Engineering I

Changes Approved:

ELE 444 Advanced Electronic Design Biology – change description

ELE 506 Digital Signal Processing – change in prerequisite and description

MCE 567 (MCE 666) Experimental Nonlinear Dynamics (Nonlinear Mechanics) – change to 500 level course

Civil Engineering – Ph.D. Program Admission Change

MIC/BIO 521 Recent Advances in Cell Biology - change in title, prerequisite and catalog description

MIC 447 Experimental Cell Biology – change in credits, prerequisite and catalog description

#### ii. Non STEM Programs (plus Psychology) – Presented by Prof. Katie Branch

New Business

Changes Approved:

PHT 600 Research Methods – change in title and description

PHT 576 Broadening Experiences in PT – change from X course to permanent course

EDC 562 Methods of Intervention for Literacy Difficulties – change from X course to permanent course

Old Business:

Course Approved:

ENG 489 Literature and Empire

Change:

WRT 590 Writing and Rhetoric – change in prerequisite

B. New Program Committee

ii. New Business

Certificate in Digital Forensics – Presented by Prof. James Kowolski

The certificate proposal in Digital Forensics was approved pending formatting corrections.

**VI. *Old Business***

Summer Approval of X Courses

Assoc. Dean Judy Beckman discussed the procedure for summer approval of X courses. Course application materials will go forward directly to the Curriculum Sub-Committee that has been received by June 30. The Graduate School will notify all members of the Graduate Council of the receipt of the materials. Upon request, the materials will be forwarded to any member who wishes to participate in the discussion as well. Following approval by the Sub-Committee, the course will then be forwarded directly to the Faculty Senate Office without confirmation by the full Graduate Council.

**VII. *Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.