

**University of Rhode Island**  
**The Graduate School**  
**Graduate Council Meeting No. 421, October 15, 2007**  
**MINUTES**

**Council Members Present:** *Steven Carey, Brian Gallagher, Laura Gostin, Chong Lee, Wayne Lee, Beth Marcoux, Jean Miller, Kevin McClure, William Rosen, Elizabeth Smith, Gary Stoner*

**Others Present:** *Vice Provost Lynn Pasquerella, Associate Dean Harold Bibb, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Ms. Ruth Gormly, Asst. Provost Clifford Katz, Prof. David Byrd and Prof. Joanne Eichinger*

**I. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.** by Associate Dean Harold Bibb.

**II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 420** were approved.

**III. Announcements**

- A. The handout “Policies and Procedures for Processing Curricular Materials” from the Faculty Senate office was distributed to Graduate Council members for a review of the current requirements for approval of curricular matters.
- B. Associate Dean Harold Bibb announced that there were no new Graduate Faculty appointments since the last meeting.

**IV. Vice Provost Discussion Items**

- A. Vice Provost Lynn Pasquerella discussed the issue of Graduate health stipends and the concern of some faculty that they are bearing an unfair burden for the health costs of graduate students. Talks continue with the Budget Office and Asst. Provost Clifford Katz. A resolution is expected soon.
- B. Vice Provost Pasquerella discussed reorganization of the Research Office and the Graduate School. She reported that many of the grant functions that had previously come out of the Provost’s Office are now being turned over to Vice President Peter Alfonso and the Research Office. These include the call for undergraduate and graduate research grants, the call by the Council for Research for coastal development grants, career enhancement awards, and the match that comes under grants.

**V. New Business**

- A. Asst. Provost Clifford Katz discussed the payment of health stipends for Graduate Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants. The stipend has been based on a formula from several years ago. Grants were being charged slightly more than the actual cost of the health benefit. Following a meeting last week between the Budget Office and Provost Katz, a plan is being developed to address the issue of overcharging by going back to correct the percentage charged to a grant. It is hopeful that this will be resolved as soon as possible, and that health benefits for this year will all be paid by the end of the academic year with retroactive payments for the overcharges to the grants.

- B. Provost Katz presented an update on union negotiations for the Graduate Assistants' contract. He noted that minor language changes have now been worked out which provide benefits to both sides. Negotiations are in the final phases right now; critical issues continue to be the amount of the stipend and the need to be competitive.
- C. A subcommittee consisting of the University's Business Managers was formed to streamline the process to put Graduate Assistantships into the system by July 11. Graduate assistantships for international students should be in the system by the last week in August. A template for graduate assistant appointment letters has been created and will be updated on an annual basis.

V. ***Committee Reports***

A. New Program Committee

1. New Business

The proposal for a Master of Arts Degree in Special Education was approved following discussions with Prof. Joanne Eichinger and Prof. David Byrd from the Department of Education.

B. Curriculum Committee

1. New Business

STEM Programs (other than Psychology)

Changes Approved:

OCG501 Physical Oceanography – change in prerequisite

HDF421 Death, Dying and Bereavement – change to carry additional THN course code

HDF471 Responding to Grief – change to carry additional THN course code

NUR506 Independent Study in Thanatology – change to carry additional THN course code

NUR523 Contemporary Thanatology – change to carry additional THN course code

NUR524 Exploring Loss through Creating Arts – change to carry additional THN course code

NUR525 Spirituality of Loss and Death for Health Professionals – change to carry additional THN course code

NUR526 Loss Across the Lifespan – change to carry additional THN course code

NUR529 Special Topics in Thanatology – change to carry additional THN course code

Tabled:

OCG665 Marine Bio-Optics and Remote Sensing – question whether this should be a new course proposal

Non-STEM Programs (plus Psychology)

Changes Approved:

COM441 Race, Media and Politics – change in title

COM445 TV Advertising – change in title and catalog description

ART415 Photography III – change in prerequisite and catalog description

LSC 593 Independent Work – change in prerequisite and catalog description

LSC595 Professional Field Experience – change in prerequisite and catalog description

PSY681 Special Problems in School Psychology – change in title and catalog description

CMD494X Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders – change to regular course offering

Approved Change in Admission Requirements for LRS MS Program:

Admission requirements: GRE or MAT or GMAT. Undergraduate majors in any field are considered for admission; those with majors in social science, history, management and labor studies are especially encouraged to apply, as are those with engineering, nursing, education, urban affairs, black studies, and women’s studies backgrounds. ***The admission test requirement (GRE, MAT, or GMAT) will be waived for applicants completing the requirements for a Graduate Certificate in either Human Resources or Labor relations with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.*** Professional experience in labor and industrial relations will carry additional weight in admission decisions.

New Courses Approved:

MTH445 Introduction to Chaotic Dynamical Systems

COM416 Propaganda

EDS500 Inclusive Educational Practices

EDS501 Collaboration and Co-Teaching

EDS502 Assessment for Elementary Special Education

EDS503 Positive Behavior Supports

EDS504 Research in Special Education

EDS505 Supervised Practicum: Elementary and Middle Level

EDS506 Supervised Practicum: Elementary and Middle Level

EDS507 Supervised Practicum: Secondary and Middle Level

EDS508 Supervised Practicum: Secondary/Middle Level

EDS509 Teaching Students with Severe Disabilities

EDS510 Teaching Elementary Students with Mild Disabilities

EDS511 Literacy and Language Instruction

EDS512 Leadership and Elementary Program Management

EDS513 Assessment for Secondary Special Educators

EDS516 Teaching Secondary Students with Mild Disabilities

EDS517 Transition Planning for Post-School Outcomes

EDS518 Supervised Internship

EDS520 Leadership and Secondary Program Management

***VI. Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.