

Rhode Island College Graduate Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018  
Kelly Board Room, Roberts Hall

Members Present: Caroline Caswell, Elizabeth Holtzman, Paul Jacques, Cherise Lee, Diane Martel, Chris Marco (chair), Magdalena Ostay, Leslie Schuster (not voting), Marie Wilks

Guest: Alexis Gorton-Rogel (minutes taker)

I. Call to Order: 10:05 am

II. Motion to approve minutes from prior meeting (Wilks, Holtzman).

Action: Approve=6 (2 voting member had not arrived yet).

III. Report of Chair

- Website: A consultant from SharePoint was going to be asked to offer insight. Still in progress.

IV. Report of Dean of Graduate Studies

- Graduate Assistantship positions have been posted and are open for applications.
- Graduate Symposium will be held in May.
- Graduate Survey: Students are slightly older, more individuals within their professions. Students vocalized concern over the number of adjunct professors and quality of teaching. Further investigation will be done to explore the quality of adjunct instructors and connection with the program. A value of adjuncts is that they are actually in the field and offers different insight. Potential issues are the impact of adjuncts on accreditation and their support needs while they learn the core courses.
- Graduate Student Funds: Different funds, still building processes.
- Professional Development Fund: Between AY 16-17 and AY 17-18, approximately 1/3 of the fund has been used.

V. Old Business

- Reconsider change to thesis committee. Should the new committee structure start in summer rather than in the fall to benefit students registering for thesis in the summer? (Wilks, Martel)  
Action: 7 Approved, 1 voting member stepped out.
- Revisit waiving GRE for RIC graduates: Programs may want to allow RIC graduates to waive the GRE exam. Do the individual schools have the authority to require all their programs to use standardized admissions tests? RIDE has an impact on FSEHD requirements, including a recent change to require GRE, SAT or ACT for education programs. The rationale for waiving for RIC graduates is trusting the grades and experiences gained within RIC's own programs. Regardless of decision on GRE requirements, language must be updated in Manual to be inclusive of tests beyond GREs. The decision was not to revise policy at this time but to clarify language in the manual to account for more standardized tests than what is currently listed.

*Current language:* Official report of scores on the Graduate Record Examination Aptitude Test or the Miller Analogies Test (see departmental program requirements for specific details).

*Change to:* Official report of scores on standardized graduate admissions tests (see departmental program requirements for specific details).

- Graduate Student behavioral expectations/Graduate Student Conduct Code: Tabled for next month.
- Discussion of online learning proposal  
 Committee members were in favor of exploring online learning in a way that maintained healthy, strong, and high quality programs; however, concern was expressed over the scale that as proposed with the online learning partnership. If the college is in dire financial times, faculty and programs should be included in conversations about which programs may close and how to offer support. As we consider the online partnership proposal, it's also a good time to generate other options for supporting programs. Any changes should not change the mission of RIC and who we are. Committee members were in favor of offering more online classes in general; however, deep concern was expressed that the massive scale of the current proposed will result in a loss of RIC's culture and the nurturing environment that we currently offer students.
- Continued discussion of School of Graduate Studies (comparison of other schools): The change in Provost position may eliminate our charge to consider creation of a school. However, building upon the work that was done, the committee will draw up recommendations for the Interim Provost.

#### VI. New business

- 1718-011 Delete courses not taught for 3 years (Martel, Holtzman)  
 Action: 7 approved, 1 voting member stepped out.
- 1718-011 BIO 69x revise prerequisites (Caswell, Jacques)  
 Action: 7 Approved, 1 voting member stepped out.
- 1718-012 Review GPA required for admission for Justice Studies BA/MA program (Martel, Holtzman)  
 Action: 7 Approved, 1 voting member stepped out.

#### VIII. Adjournment: 11:53 am