

Rhode Island College Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2017
Roberts Hall, Kelley Board Room

Members Present: Caroline Caswell, Gerri August, Marie Wilks, Lisa Church, Elizabeth Holtzman, Chris Marco (chair), Leslie Schuster (non-voting), Cherise Lee, Deborah Siegel, Cheryl Williams, Elisa Miller

Guests: Joan Dagle, Cindy Padula, Alexis Rogel (minutes taker)

Meeting Called to Order: 10:06

A. Approve minutes from prior meeting (Siegel; Church)

Action: 3 abstain; 7 approve.

B. Announcements/Report of Chair

1. Update on recommendation to Council to revise policy on undergrad students in grad courses: The proposal was on the Council agenda that afternoon, and C. Marco was going to attend the Council meeting to speak on its behalf. Marco recommended that Graduate Studies adopt the policy language as stated in Chapter 3 because it was more concise. Motion was passed.
2. Update on recommendation to Council to revise policy on walking at graduation with outstanding requirements. C. Marco attended a CAPP meeting to discuss the proposal. CAPP was considering the issue in regard to undergraduate students. CAPP tabled the issue for further discussion. C. Marco offered to CAPP to have a representative of Graduate students participate in future discussions.
3. Expiring membership terms: Anybody willing to serve another term should notify C. Marco. Otherwise, new members will be sought through Council's Committee on Committees.
4. "Formerly" in course descriptions: Sue Abbotson from UCC had identified courses with references to former course titles which could be dropped from the catalog. She graciously did it for graduate courses as well.
5. Contact hours in catalog: The catalog used to list when there was a discrepancy between contact and credit hours. This was dropped at some point and should be added back in. C. Marco will identify relevant grad courses and provide the information to Kim Machado.

C. Report of Dean of Graduate Studies

1. Interest in graduate symposium is lower than in the past. Encourage students to apply.
2. The student research fund is being utilized. There will be funds left for next year.
3. The application fee waiver should only be given to students who attend Open House. Other requests for a waiver should go through the Dean of Graduate Studies.
4. There is growth in the number of graduate assistantships available. There will be upcoming discussions on increasing the stipend.

D. Old business: None

E. New business

1. Motion to Bundle and approve 1617-035 and 1617-042 (Wilks; Williams)
 - a. 1617-034: Increase total program credits by one credit for CGS in Financial Planning
 - b. 1617-042: Revise the list of foundation courses for the M.P.Ac. program. Also includes note to change the semester when ACCT 554 is offered.

Action: Approved Unanimously

2. Motion to Bundle and Approve 1617-036 and 1617-037 (Wilks, August)
 - a. 1617-036: Create new CGS in Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety
 - b. 1617-037: Create new course NURS 519

Action: Approved Unanimously

3. Motion to Bundle and Approve 1617-038 through 1617-041 (Siegel, Church)
 - a. 1617-038: Revise MSN program to list a set of restricted electives.
 - b. 1617-039: Create new course NURS 521
 - c. 1617-040: Create new course NURS 522
 - d. 1617-041: Create new course NURS 523

Action: Approved unanimously.

4. Discussion regarding GRE admissions requirement

A request was made by the department chair of a grad program to waive the GRE for RIC students and for non-RIC students with strong academic histories. Among the rationale were: Standardized tests are often biased against first generation and economically disadvantaged students; Students fear the quantitative section and concern whether information within that section (e.g., algebra, trigonometry) is relevant for students to succeed in a statistics course. Discussion among committee members included comments both for and against the proposal, including: The upper range of GRE scores may not predict success but the lower end does predict poor performance; A comparison of GRE scores for students who finished RIC program vs. were dismissed (there was a difference in scores); Taking the GRE shows a level of professionalism and commitment; The GRE's show your place within your field; One program director said they did not require GRE scores and another stated that the scores did not change admission decisions. Regarding the financial burden of taking GRE's the financial aid office offers waivers for half of the fee, which we can promote better. It was considered whether the GRE's could be waived for RIC students with strong records. The discussion was tabled to collect more information on what similar schools require.

The discussion also revealed that RIC offers test sessions for the GRE subject test as well as other standardized tests. Sandy Langlois coordinates them.

- F. Motion to adjourn: 11:57 am (August; Caswell)