



Minutes
Graduate Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting February 5, 2021

Members Present: Leo Pinheiro (Chair), Deborah Britt, Jennifer Meade, Gerri August, Leslie Schuster (non-voting), Monica Darcy, Michelle Barrus, Anita Duneer, Justin DiLibero

Guests: Sue Dubois (Minutes), Natasha Feinberg

1. Call to Order (10:01)
2. Approval of 12/4 Meeting Minutes (Monica Darcy, Deborah Britt)
Action: Yeas 6, Nays 0, Abstentions 2
3. New Business
202107 through 202115 M.A. in Reading.
Motion to bundle proposal (Meade, August)

Natasha Feinberg presented the Proposal Program Revision for the M.A. in Reading Program. Past programs drew on an outdated theoretical framework. The new program is a structural literacy model. The Rhode Island Legislature passed the Read Act which aligns with FSHED vision of promoting equity and diversity. This program would start summer 2022 and could be completed in 1 ½ years. There was a discussion on procedures for students applying to the Reading MA or Dyslexia Endorsement: embedding application in College Net or developing a certificate program.

Action: Yeas 8, Nays 0, Abstentions 0.

4. Report of the Chair

a. L. Pinheiro yielded his time to L. Schuster for a presentation of the Provisional Admit and Endorsement Form.

5. Motion to revise policies in the Graduate Studies Policy and Procedures Manual per documents received from L. Schuster. (M. Darcy, J. DiLibero)

Provisional Admit

a. Some programs already have a Provisional Admit policy while others hesitant.

b. The proposal would allow students to enter provisionally. Students would need to maintain a 3.0 GPA in the first 9 credits. Failure to meet the requirements would be a cause for dismissal from the program. Students would be matriculated, which is critical for Financial Aid. The Provisional Admission contract would be outlined to each student when the Plan of Study is developed.

c. Provisional Admission can be especially useful for students who would otherwise not meet admission requirements and would allow older students to return to college.

Endorsement Policy

a. Prospective graduate students who have completed their undergraduate degree at RIC or who have taken graduate courses would have the option on their application to request one Endorsement Form and two Letters of Recommendation subject to program guidelines. This could streamline the application process.

b. Discussion on the language of the form and the possibility of adding a live link which would make endorsement forms readily available to faculty. Discussion of whether students would understand who to ask for an Endorsement or for letter of recommendation.

c. Discussion of creating a sub-committee to re-think the Letters of Recommendation and Endorsement.

Action on Provisional Admission Policy: Yeas 7; Nays 0; Abstentions 0

The Endorsement Form was tabled for further discussion.

6. Report on the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Brief discussion of Virtual Open House and the delay on GA positions.

7. Adjournment (Leo Pinheiro) 11:36.