To: Members of the 2008-2009 Graduate Council

From: Harold Bibb, Associate Dean
      Keith Killingbeck, Associate Dean

Date: 21 October 2008

RE: Agenda for Meeting Number 430 of the Graduate Council to be held on Monday 27 October 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Alumni Center, Upper College Road

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 429, 29 September 2008 (please see attachment)

III. Announcements

   A. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty
      Adam D. Roth, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies
      Anthony Scioli, Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology

   B. Workshop on electronic course proposal preparation and electronic signatures.

IV. New Business

   A. Excellence in graduate education at the University of Rhode Island: making the case in the search for our next president, and elsewhere

V. Committee Reports

   A. Curriculum Committee

      400-level courses

      1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences
         Department of Natural Resources Science
         Changes:
         NRS 402 Wildlife Biometrics – change in prerequisite to read: Pre: BIO 262, NRS 223, STA 308 or 309, and permission of instructor.

         NRS 406 Wetland Wildlife – change in prerequisite to read: Pre: BIO 262, NRS 223, and permission of instructor.

         NRS 423 Wetland Ecology – change in prerequisite to read: Pre: BIO 262, GEO 103, NRS 223, concurrent enrollment in NRS 425 or 525, and permission of instructor.
2) College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Physics  
New Course:  
**PHY 430 Modern Biological Physics (3)**  
Quantitative representation of the structure and organization of biological molecules (DNA, RNA, proteins, membranes), the forces that stabilize biomolecules, cooperative transitions, protein folding, membrane physics, energy transduction in biological systems, molecular motors, and ratchet models. Pre: MTH 244.

**500/600-level courses (changes in existing courses)**  
1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
Changes:  
**CPL 538 Site Planning** – change in catalog description and prerequisite to read: Site analysis, planning and design processes. Principles and techniques addressing residential, commercial and mixed-use developments. Presents techniques to review site plans and evaluate post-development impacts. Pre: graduate standing or permission of instructor.

Department of Cell and Molecular Biology  
**MTC 594 Special Problems in Biotechnology** – change in credits from 3 to 1-3.

Departments of Biological Sciences and Natural Resources Science  
**BIO 563 Ichthyology (3)** – change in catalog description, credits, prerequisite, and cross-listing to read:  
**BIO/NRS 563 Biology and Ecology of Fishes (4)**  
Exploration of the functional biology and ecology of marine and freshwater fishes through lecture and discussion of primary literature. Laboratory involves specimen study, field trips, and a research project. (Lec. 3, Lab 3) Pre: BIO 366 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.

2) College of the Engineering  
Department of Ocean Engineering  
Changes:  
**OCE 560 Introduction to Data Collection Systems (3)** – change in title, method of instruction, and catalog description to read:  
**OCE 560 Ocean Robotic Systems (3)**  
Lecture and laboratory course on ocean robotic systems. Includes ocean embedded controllers; navigation and environmental sensors; ocean adaptive network control of position, depth, heading and attitude; interfacing with scientific instruments. (Lec. 2, Lab 3)

**OCE 565 Ocean Laboratory 1 (3)** – change in title and catalog description to read:  
**OCE 565 Ocean Robotic Vehicles Lab (3)**  
Laboratory course on ocean robotic vehicle design: Implementation of networked hardware, sensors and software to coordinate navigation of ocean robotic vehicles for delivering and controlling scientific ocean instrumentation packages. (Lec. 1, Lab 6)
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Changes:

CVE 570 Sanitary Chemistry (3) – change in title and catalog description to read;
CVE 570 Water Chemistry for Engineers (3)

Chemical principles applied to problems in environmental engineering, including water and wastewater treatment, contaminant hydrology, and hazardous waste management. Pre: permission of instructor.

3) College of Human Science and Services
   a) School of Education
      Changes:

EDC 586 Problems in Education (0-3) – change in credits from 0-3 to 1-3, and add another permanent topic to this course:
EDC 586 Problems in Education (1-3)
The topic added is titled “Teaching Concepts Through Historical Re-Creation” – its description is: Advanced work through a living history experience to create an alignment of instructional practices with social studies standards. Pre: teacher certification.

EDC 587 Problems in Education (0-3) – change in credits from 0-3 to 1-3, and add another permanent topic to this course:
EDC 587 Problems in Education (1-3)
The topic added is titled “Disciplinary Literacy” – its description is: Advanced work designed to prepare middle and high school teachers to create and sustain learning communities that are rigorous and student-centered using the “Disciplinary Literacy Design Principles” © as the framework for lesson planning. Pre: teacher certification.

EDC 921 Workshop for Teachers (1-3) – change method of instruction to workshop and online, and add another permanent topic to this course:
EDC 921 Workshop for Teachers (1-3)
The topic added is titled “Using Blogs & Wikis to Foster Literacy” – its description is: Course uses the internet for teaching and learning through a blog to cover basic information literacy skills. Pre: teacher certification.

b) Graduate School of Library and Information Studies
   Changes:

LSC 595 Professional Field Experience (1-6) – change title, method of instruction (to seminar, practicum, online, and portfolio), prerequisite, and catalog description to read:
LSC 595 LIS Professional Field Experience (1-6)
Directed field experience in approved LIS placement; required capstone for MLIS. 45 hours on-site per credit hour. Guided online discussion; face-to-face orientation and final poster session. Reflective portfolio. (Practicum). 593 and 595 may be repeated for a combined total of 6 credits. Pre: 18 hours of LSC with a B average and permission of instructor.

500/600-level courses (new courses and curricular matters requiring Faculty Senate approval)
   1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences
New Course

**NRS 511 Population and Environment Change (3)**
Overview and analysis of the major scientific and policy issues concerning human population growth and environmental change. Lec. 3.

New Course

**NRS 514 Climate Change Science and Policy (3)**
Overview and analysis of the science and policy issues concerning climate change and global warming. (Lec. 3) For graduate students, none. For undergraduates, GEO 305 or permission of instructor.

New Course

**MCE 591/592 Special Problems (1-6)**
Advanced work under the supervision of a faculty member arranged to suit individual requirements of the student. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Pre: permission of instructor.

Change in degree requirements
The Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics proposes to change portions of its non-thesis masters degree requirements as outlined below.

**PROPOSED NEW REQUIREMENTS**

**MASTER of SCIENCE DEGREE (Non-Thesis Option 30 Credits)**

Only part-time, off-campus students will be eligible for the non-thesis option and they should normally apply for the option at the time they are applying admission to the graduate program. Students enrolled in this program will be assigned an advisor to aid in course selection, be the instructor for the special problems class and administer the written and oral comprehensive examinations (see below). No thesis committee is required for students in this category.

**Course Work Requirements**
A total of 30 credit hours of course work must be completed. Additional course work may be required to remove any student background deficiencies identified during admission to the program. Within their program of study, students must take one course in each of the three department core areas from the selection list shown in the thesis option section. One three credit course must also be taken under **MCE 591/92, Special Problems**. This course is to be taught by the student's advisor, and will consist of independent study related to the student's major area. Results from the special problems course will be a written paper and an oral presentation of the findings. A program of study form should be completed and submitted to the Graduate School by all students after completing 6-9 credits of part-time study.

**Comprehensive Master's Examination**
At or near the end of completion of course work, non-thesis master's degree candidates should take their Special Problems course as previously discussed. Integrated into the end of this course will be a written and oral master's comprehensive examination that candidates must successfully pass. The written exam shall be the document resulting from the course study and is to be independently developed by the student. This document should be comprehensive in nature, typically drawing on other course work and subject matter from the student's program of study. However, it is to be the result of a single semester's study and thus should not be of the length and breadth of a master's thesis. The paper should contain the usual sections of a technical report such as: Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review, Problem(s) Studied, Results and Conclusions, References. The oral exam shall consist of a presentation and
defense of the written paper. The presentation should be approximately 20-minutes followed by a committee questioning period not to exceed one hour. Both written and oral examinations will be evaluated by a three-person committee composed of the student's advisor, one member from the Department's Graduate Committee, and one additional member selected from the general faculty whose background matches the student's major area of study. The advisor (in consultation with the department's Graduate Studies Director) shall be responsible for selecting the evaluation committee and handling all other administrative issues related to conducting these examinations. The semester time schedule for the special problems course should follow: establish evaluation committee at beginning of term; distribute student's written paper during next to last week of the course; conduct oral exam approximately one week later. Based on review of both written and oral portions, the committee shall make a pass/fail decision at the end of the oral exam and immediately report the results to the student and Graduate School. In the event of failure, the student will receive an incomplete grade in the course and re-examination procedures outlined in section 7.45 of the Graduate Manual will be followed.

CURRENT REQUIREMENTS

MASTER of SCIENCE DEGREE Non- Thesis Option (30 Credits)

Only part-time, off-campus students will be eligible for the non-thesis option and they should normally apply for the option at the time they are applying for admission to the graduate program. Students enrolled in this program will be assigned an advisor to aid in course selection and to administer the comprehensive examination (see below). No thesis committee is required for students in this category.

Course Work Requirements
A total of 30 credit hours of course work must be completed. Additional course work may be required to remove any student background deficiencies identified during admission to the program. Within their program of study, students must take one course in each of the three department core areas from the selection list shown in the thesis option section. One three credit course must be taken under MCE 691/92, Special Problems, and will consist of an independent study related to the student's major area and will contain a substantial paper reporting the outcome of the study. This course will normally be taught by the student's advisor. The paper describing this independent study is not to be of the length and breadth of a master's thesis. A program of study form should be completed and submitted to the Graduate School by all students after completing 6-9 credits of part-time study.

Comprehensive Master's Examination
Upon completion of all course work, non-thesis Master's degree candidates, must take and pass a written comprehensive examination of 6 hours in length. Students must take this examination either in the semester in which they will complete their course work or in the following semester. Material on this examination will include topics selected from any course on the student's program of study, but should emphasize the student's major area. The examination shall be made up by the student's advisor in consultation with the department's Graduate Studies Director. Examination results will be reviewed by the department Graduate Committee and the advisor to determine whether a passing grade has been attained.

Change in degree requirements
The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies proposes the following:

We propose that 3 credits of LSC 595 be made a graduation requirement for all students who do not take LSC 596 (School Library Media Practicum and Seminar). Students who enter the MLIS program with significant previous experience may waive the requirement and earn 1 LSC 595 credit hour by means of "Credit by Examination," demonstrating the desired course outcomes through a reflective portfolio based on work experience.
VI. Old Business

VII. Adjournment