To: Members of the 2010-2011 Graduate Council

From: Nasser Zawia, Interim Dean
Keith Killingbeck, Associate Dean

Date: 25 January 2011

RE: Agenda for Meeting Number 451 of the Graduate Council to be held on Monday 31 January 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the large conference room of the Alumni Center

I. Call to order

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 450, December 2010 (please see attached)

III. Announcements

A. Recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

   Ilya Buynevich, Adjunct Professor, Department of Geosciences
   Jason Grear, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Natural Resources Science
   Ingrid Bergh, Adjunct Professor, Nursing
   John Boekamp, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Psychology
   Jason Machan, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Psychology
   Abbe Marrs Garcia, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Psychology
   Eileen Grogan, Adjunct Professor, Biological Sciences
   Stephen Swallow, Adjunct Professor, Natural Resources Science
   Jason Osenkowski, Adjunct Instructor (Master's only), Natural Resources Science
   Ernesto Medina, Adjunct Professor, Natural Resources Science

B. Based on an evaluation of the Pearson Test of English (PET) and the input of the Graduate Council at an earlier meeting this academic year, the Graduate School will now be accepting PET scores as evidence of proficiency in English. International students now have the choice of submitting TOEFL, IELTS, or PET scores.

C. Reminder that nominations for the Awards for Excellence in Doctoral Research are due by 15 February 2011.

IV. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee
I. 500/600-level courses

**Changes:**

1) College of Arts and Sciences
   Department of English

**ENG 595 Master's Project** – change in credits from 1-6 to 3 and a change in catalog description to read: Student produces MA portfolio in consultation with major professor and committee. S/U only.

**ENG 599 Master's Thesis Research** – change in credits from 1-6 to 3 and a change in catalog description to read: Student produces MA thesis in consultation with major professor and committee. (Independent Study) S/U credit.

2) College of Environment and Life Sciences
   Department of Biological Sciences

**ENT 544 Insect Ecology** – change in course code to ENT/BIO 544. Course description remains under ENT in the catalog.

   Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences

**NFS 515X Interdisciplinary Research in Nutrition** – change in credits from 2 to 1 and a change in catalog description to read: (1 cr) This course provides research skills in interpreting nutrition literature and preparing a research proposal and interdisciplinary research skills coordinated with HSC 500X. Concurrent registration in HSC 500X is required.

V. Graduate School Manual

The Preface below will be added to the newly revised Graduate School Manual. Its content will be briefly discussed.

**PREFACE TO THE 2011 REVISION**

This 2011 version of the Graduate School Manual was designed to clarify existing policies, introduce new policies, and interject elements of guidance, all with the intent of improving graduate education at the University of Rhode Island. The persons responsible for developing or approving this revised Manual were the Graduate Manual Revision Committee (Steven Carey, Kevin McClure, Jean Miller, Elizabeth Smith, Gary Stoner, and co-chairs Harold Bibb and Keith Killingbeck), Interim Dean Nasser Zawia, and the Graduate Councils of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years. This document will be modified periodically to further improve the clarity of existing policies. Any new policies or substantive changes in extant policies will
include the date on which the Graduate Council approved the change. That date will be posted adjacent to the section number that precedes the policy (e.g., Section 7.31 [modified 5 March 2015]. Specific deadlines for the submission of important milestone documents are available on the Graduate School web site. Although advice and counsel regarding progress through a graduate degree program should always be sought from a student’s major advisor, Graduate Program Director, research committee, or the Graduate School, each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and following the policies in this Graduate School Manual.

VI. Policy matters

A. Manuscript-style theses and dissertations -- “Each manuscript should be preceded by a page describing its publication status, co-authors, and the intended journal.”

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business


9.11. All courses taken for program credit must be at the graduate level. All courses in the Program of Study deemed to carry research, independent study, or directed study credits must be at the 500 level. No more than half of the remaining credits in the Program of Study can be at the 400 level, and the remainder must be at the 500 or 600 level. As an example, in a Program of Study with a total of 30 credits, 6 of which are for master’s research credits, only 12 credits or fewer of 400-level coursework can be included.

B. Final approval of successfully-defended theses and dissertations (Graduate Manual section 11.28). Discussion of our present policy.

IX. Adjournment