To: Members of the 2012-2013 Graduate Council

From: Nasser Zawia, Dean
       Keith Killingbeck, Associate Dean

Date: 20 September 2012

RE: Agenda for Meeting Number 465 of the Graduate Council to be held on Monday 24 September 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the rectangular Board Room of the Alumni Center

I. Call to order

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 464, 10 September 2012 (please see attachment)

III. Announcements
   A. Recent additions to the Graduate Faculty
      NATALLIA KATENKA  COMPUTER SCI AND STATISTICS  8/17/2012
      GAVINO PUGGIONI  COMPUTER SCI AND STATISTICS  8/17/2012
      VALERIE BAKER  MUSIC  9/17/2012
      LAUREN MANDEL  GS LIBRARY AND INFO STUDIES  9/17/2012
   B. University Distinguished Achievement Awards – Graduate School winners.
   C. University Library Learning Commons; availability of a ‘presentation room’ and new Digital Initiatives Librarian– Brian Gallagher.
   D. Graduate School forms – feedback

IV. Committees
   A. Nominating Committee - proposal for populating the standing committees of the 2012-2013 Graduate Council
   B. Ad hoc committees – update on recommending a keynote speaker for the graduate commencement

V. Graduate School Manual
   A. Revisited – Proposed new wording to eliminate the possibility of a doctoral student taking a master’s degree after enrolling in a Ph.D. program and including 12 credits of 400-level courses on both their master’s and doctoral Programs of Study.

In the Fall 2011 Graduate School Manual.........
9.21. For students who have received the master's degree in the same field of study or in a closely related field, all coursework beyond the master's degree towards the doctorate must be at the 500 or 600 level. For students who have not been awarded the master's degree by the time they enroll in Graduate School, a maximum of 12 credits within the minimum of 72 credits required for the Ph.D. may be taken at the 400 level. All other work for program credit must be at the 500 or 600 level.

Proposed new wording (underlined) based on Graduate Council input to rectify a misinterpretation of 9.21..........

9.21. For students who have received the master's degree in the same field of study or in a closely related field, all coursework beyond the master's degree towards the doctorate must be at the 500 or 600 level. For students without a master's degree who enroll in a doctoral program, but who complete a master’s degree along the way to the Ph.D., 400-level courses may only be applied to the master’s degree Program of Study. For doctoral students who do not have a master's degree, and who do not earn a master's degree along the way to the Ph.D., up to 12 credits of 400-level courses may be applied to the doctoral Program of Study.

VI. University Manual

Revisited -- Graduate Faculty Status (GFS) -- consideration of the wording in the University Manual regarding GFS – the policy, as it presently appears in the University Manual, is reproduced immediately below, followed by a draft of new wording proposed in the April 2012 meeting of the Graduate Council, and edited by members of the Council

4.70.10 The Graduate Faculty. The membership of the Graduate Faculty shall comprise the following President, Provost, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Dean of the Graduate School, Vice Provosts, deans of graduate professional schools, deans of colleges in which departments offer programs leading to advanced degrees, chairpersons of departments authorized to offer graduate degree programs, the Dean of University Libraries and members of the instructional, research and library faculty who either teach one or more courses on the 500, 600 or 900 level on a continuing basis, serve as major professors sponsoring graduate students, or serve as members of the committees supervising the work of graduate students. When a person ceases to perform the function or functions qualifying him or her for membership on the Graduate Faculty, he or she ceases to be a member. Reviews of their Graduate Faculty shall be made by Departments or Programs at least once every four years. Recommendations for removal of a Graduate Faculty member who has ceased to perform the functions required for membership shall come from the Departments or Programs to the Graduate Council through the Dean of the Graduate School. The Graduate Council may either confirm or deny the recommendation.
DRAFT of new wording (underlined) that takes the Council ‘off the hook’ by leaving the final decision on removal of Graduate Faculty Status to the Dean of the Graduate School, but based on the recommendation of the Council. The original draft of this section of the URI Catalog was approved by the Council at our last meeting, but we want to see if the Council would prefer this option.

4.70.10 The Graduate Faculty. Graduate Faculty Status is afforded to faculty members of the University who establish and maintain significant scholarly activity in their field. Its importance lies in the fact that it is a requirement for serving on the research or examination committees of graduate students. All faculty are eligible to be nominated for Graduate Faculty Status by the Chair or Director of the department, school, or program in which they have a formal appointment. A letter of nomination submitted to the Graduate School along with a current curriculum vitae of the faculty member serves to initiate the review process. Nomination is automatic for newly hired tenure-track faculty. Criteria for appointment to the Graduate Faculty focus on the educational background of the faculty member, their past and present scholarly accomplishments, and their ability to serve as capable mentors of students pursuing graduate degrees. The expectation is that faculty a) have earned the highest degree available in their discipline, b) have published or produced products that contribute to their discipline or have distinguished themselves as leading practitioners in their discipline, and c) have the talent to be effective educators to students of the University enrolled in graduate degree programs. Periodic review of Graduate Faculty Status is required. Renewal will be reviewed during each normally scheduled College review of a faculty member. Requests for removal of Graduate Faculty Status will be initiated by the Dean of the College in which the faculty member resides, and will be submitted to the Graduate Council and the Dean of the Graduate School. The Graduate Council will review the request and make a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School, who will then approve or reject the request to remove Graduate Faculty Status.

VII. The issue of whether a faculty member should be considered an ‘inside’ or ‘outside’ member of a student’s program committee has been a topic of discussion recently, especially since the College of the Environment and Life Sciences has decoupled their graduate programs from strict departmental affiliations. We would like to begin a discussion of this issue with the hopes of gleaning insights from the Council that provide potential alternatives to the present policy.

VIII. Old Business
A. ‘Last Semester Status’ – an explanation of this policy and a discussion of whether this policy should legitimately apply to students in non-thesis programs.

IX. New Business

X. Adjournment