UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

To: Members of the 2012-2013 Graduate Council

From: Nasser Zawia, Dean
Keith Killingbeck, Associate Dean

Date: 16 November 2012

RE: Agenda for Meeting Number 468 of the Graduate Council to be held on Monday 10 December 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 467, 19 November 2012

III. Announcements

   A. Recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

   STEPHEN LICHT         OCEAN ENGINEERING       11/20/2012

   B. Graduate School Commencement; graduate student update on the selection of a keynote speaker

   C. Brief report on the 2012 Council of Graduate Schools meeting in Washington, DC on 5-8 December.

   D. Update – Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards

IV. Old Business

   A. 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.

V. Committees

   A. Curriculum Committee -

I. 400 – level courses

Changes:

1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences
   Biological Sciences
**BIO/GEO 472** – change in course code from BIO/GEO 472 to BIO/GEO 572. Change in catalog description and prerequisites to read: A survey of modern evolutionary biology, including classic evolutionary theory, phylogenetics, evolution and development, adaptation, mass extinction and genomic evolution. (Lec. 4). Pre: BIO/GEO 272, graduate standing, or permission of instructor.

**II. 500/600-level courses**

**New Courses:**

1) College of Pharmacy  
   Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences

**BPS 557X Modern Spectroscopic Techniques in Drug Discovery (3)**
Introduces spectroscopic techniques needed to understand data from contemporary biomedical science research, especially macromolecular NMR spectroscopy. Focused on developing data interpretation skills, and the ability to critically evaluate current practices. Pre: One semester each general chemistry (CHM 101, or equivalent) and organic chemistry (CHM 124, or equivalent), or permission of instructor.

**PHP 685 Pharmacoeconomic Methods and Applications (3)**
Methodologies for conducting pharmacoeconomic analyses in observational settings and clinical trials, and the application of pharmacoeconomic techniques to describe and evaluate cost-effectiveness of medication use. Pre: PHP 580, or graduate student standing with permission of instructor.

2) College of Arts and Sciences  
   Writing and Rhetoric

**ENG 910 Seminars in Professional Studies (0)**
Seminars covering topics related to graduate education in English. Required of first-year graduate students in English graduate program. Pre: Students must be enrolled in English Graduate Program.

**B. New Program Committee -**

I. Post-BS Entry to Doctor of Nursing Practice

II. Fifth-year Masters in Oceanography

**VI. Graduate Faculty Status – Section 4.70.10**

A complete revision of Section 4.70.10 of the University Manual was discussed thoroughly by the Graduate Council at four meetings. The revision below is the result of discussions at the 19 November 2012 meeting of the Council in response to suggestions made by members of the Council of Deans, and by faculty attending the 15 November 2012 meeting of the Faculty Senate.
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. Graduate Faculty Status is automatic for newly hired tenure-track faculty who have achieved the highest degree in their discipline. Appointment or retention of Graduate Faculty Status will be approved for faculty who have a) earned the highest degree available in their discipline, b) published or produced products that contribute to their discipline or have distinguished themselves as leading practitioners in their discipline, and c) demonstrated their effectiveness as educators and mentors of students in graduate degree programs. Periodic review of Graduate Faculty Status is required. Renewal will be reviewed during each regular, mandated College review of a faculty member (1-, 2-, or 4-year intervals, depending on rank). Requests for non-renewal 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 Dean of the Graduate School for review. The Graduate Council will then approve or reject the request.

VII. Older Business

A. Section 8.81.63 of the University Manual

The implications of Section 8.81.62 of the University Manual regarding graduate courses were discussed thoroughly by the Graduate Council. The revision below was passed unanimously by the Council on 24 September 2012, and again on 19 October 2012. Based on recent comments from NEASC and from the Faculty Senate, we need to revisit our wording.

8.81.63 Any course for graduate credit not taught for four successive calendar years and not scheduled for the fifth year shall be deleted from the public list of curricular offerings (Official University Catalog). Enrollment Services shall determine annually which of these courses will be scheduled for the following academic year as requested by the department chairs or college deans. Courses not scheduled will be considered suspended and will remain on the Enrollment Services non-public list for 3 years. If the suspended course is offered any time during the three-year period, it will be returned to the public list of curricular offerings (University Catalog). If the suspended course is not offered within 3 years it will be considered deleted and may not be offered
without approval as a new course.

B. 'Last Semester Status' – an explanation of this policy and a discussion of whether this policy should legitimately apply to students in non-thesis programs.

VIII. New Business

Hiro Uchida in Environmental and Natural Resources Economics has asked that the Council consider extending the maximum time between written and oral comprehensive exams from 4 weeks to 16 weeks. His justifications follow.

"[Justifications]
  The maximum allowed interval is set primarily to "ensure PhD committee members to administer the oral exam in a 'timely manner'." In another word, it is primarily for faculty (committee) members' convenience. In our department (ENRE), the written comp exam is based primarily on the economics courses they have taken in the previous two years. As such, it is natural that their written comp is administered after their completion of Spring semester courses' final exams, i.e., at the end of Spring semester. In this case, the four-week interval would mean that the oral exam must be taken by mid-June, i.e., during the summer semester. And this means all students taking the oral must pay the tuition for that summer session (per Manual).

  Alternatively, we can push back the written exam until the beginning of Fall semester. However, this option has several issues:
  - There will be an unnecessary blank of three months between when they completed the coursework and the written exam. This will only be disadvantageous for the students.
  - Thinking of the possibility that some students might fail the comp, this will lead to inefficient use of student support funds. In particular, we could end up supporting a student who would eventually fail the comp during the entire summer, and potentially a good portion of Fall semester. If the first written comp is administered in May and if a student fails, we can at least hold off the funding and/or support others who have passed the comp."

IX. Adjournment...............Happy Holidays