I. Call to order

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 469, 28 January 2013

III. Announcements
   A. Recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

   ALEXANDER SIDORKIN   SCHOOL OF EDUCATION   2/18/2013
   NAOMI DETENBECK       NATURAL RESOURCES SCIENCE  2/19/2013
   TIFFANY SMYTHE         MARINE AFFAIRS            2/19/2013
   TRACY ROMANO           FISH, ANIM, & VET SCIENCE  2/19/2013
   ZHENZHEN SUN           COLLEGE OF BUSINESS       2/19/2013

   B. New forms update – Program of Study forms and Establishment of a
      Program Committee forms released

   C. Update – speaker for graduate commencement (votes of top 3 below)
      Lindborg-65 (9 first choice); Nafisi-54 (4 first choice); Brooks-44 (1 first choice)

   D. A member of the Graduate Council is being sought by a University
      committee that will be selecting a vendor to develop and operate two online
      graduate programs.

   E. Status of the University NEASC-induced time-dependent course
      removal policy.

   F. Requested review of the Master’s in Medical Laboratory Science program

IV. Committees
   A. Curriculum Committee -

      I. 500 – level courses

         Changes:

         1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences
            Geosciences
GEO 533 Readings in Petrology – change in title to Readings in Petrology and Geochemistry, and a change in catalog description to read: Seminar in petrology and geochemistry with readings drawn from the current professional literature. S/U credit.

II. 500/600-level courses

New Courses:

1) College of the Environment and Life Sciences
   Plant Sciences and Entomology

BES 599 Master's Thesis Research (1-12)
To be taken by students in the Master of Science – Biological and Environmental Sciences (BES) degree program. Number of credits determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study) S/U credit. Pre: Enrollment in the MS-BES graduate program.

BES 699 Doctoral Dissertation Research (1-12)
To be taken by students in the Ph.D. – Biological and Environmental Sciences (BES) degree program. Number of credits is determined each semester in consultation with the major professor or program committee. (Independent Study) S/U credit. Pre: Enrollment in the PhD-BES graduate program.

Cell and Molecular Biology

MLS 575 The Business of Biotechnology (3)
Will cover business issues, disciplines, principles and challenges as applied to the operation of biotechnology companies; new product selection will be discussed in terms of development and return on investment. Pre: Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

MLS 581 Clinical Research for Biotechnology (3)
This course will cover the drug development process, principles of good clinical practice, clinical trial phases (I-IV) and design, key players in clinical research and associated regulatory strategies. Online course. Pre: graduate or upper undergraduate standing or permission of instructor

Additional Curricular Matters

The proposal to change the requirements to the Medical Laboratory Science master's degree that was tabled in November 2012, and in January 2013, was considered again after the Graduate Curriculum Committee met with Drs. Sperry and Paquette on 18 February 2013. The Committee will share the results of that meeting with the Council.

V. Graduate School Manual
Consideration of a change in one sentence of Section 7.56 in the Graduate School Manual that pertains to the submission of dissertation proposals. No change is proposed for the ‘one-semester’ policy for master’s proposals.

FROM -- “In all cases, however, the proposal must be submitted at least one semester before the semester in which the dissertation itself is to be submitted and defended.

TO -- In all cases, however, the proposal must be submitted at least two semesters before the semester in which the dissertation itself is to be submitted and defended.

The section as it reads now is reproduced in its entirety below

“7.56 Dissertation Proposal. A dissertation proposal is required of all doctoral students and is intended to describe a problem to be investigated and provide details regarding how the research will be performed and reported. Approval signifies that it meets the standards of the University of Rhode Island for the doctoral degree. The proposal should present the required information as concisely and clearly as possible. The ability to describe concisely a research problem and methodology is one of the skills that the dissertation proposal process is designed to develop. Therefore, dissertation proposals are limited in length to the signature cover-sheet plus 15 or fewer double-spaced, numbered pages in a font size no smaller than 12 point. Proposals longer than this will not be accepted, however, appendices and references are not included in the 15-page limit. Proposals should be submitted before substantial research has been completed, typically during the first or second semester in which the student registers for research credits. In all cases, however, the proposal must be submitted at least one semester before the semester in which the dissertation itself is to be submitted and defended. Complete details for the appropriate development, preparation, and submission of a dissertation proposal can be found on the Graduate School website (www.uri.edu/gsadmis/). Proposals will be returned for revision if they do not contain the appropriate sections described in the Proposal Instructions.”

VI. Topics for Discussion

A. Graduate Faculty Status – one last time, we hope.

Below, between the two horizontal border lines, is a version of the Graduate Faculty Status policy written by Professor Fritz Wenisch and submitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for review. We have been asked to review it also. Following the
Unauthoritative suggestions concerning Graduate Faculty membership “cooked up” by F.W.

These suggestions are based on F.W’s understanding of the University Manual passage the Graduate School submitted to the Faculty Senate. Needless to say [“Then why are you saying it?”—Comment by a grouchy editor], the rest of the University Manual Graduate Faculty provisions need to be renumbered if something like the following is adopted.

4.70.10 Conditions for Graduate Faculty Membership. Conditions for Graduate Faculty membership shall be (1) appointment as a tenure-track or tenured faculty member at the University of Rhode Island; (2) having earned the highest degree in the academic field a faculty member represents; (3) continuing scholarly productivity in the faculty member’s academic discipline by way of publications or other scholarly or similar contributions distinguishing the faculty member as a leading practitioner in his or her field; and (4) continued demonstration of the faculty member’s effectiveness as an educator and/or mentor of students in graduate degree programs [see below, “problem”].

4.70.11 Requirement for Serving on Graduate Student Committees. Graduate Faculty membership shall be a requirement for a URI faculty member to serve on research or examination committees of graduate students.

4.70.12 Graduate Faculty Status and Newly Hired Faculty Members. All newly hired tenure-track faculty members shall automatically be given Graduate Faculty status if at the time they are appointed to their URI faculty position, they have earned the highest degree in their academic field.¹ Their Graduate Faculty status shall be subject to the review outlined in 4.70.14.

4.70.13 Graduate Faculty Status of Current Faculty Members. URI faculty members who have tenured or tenure-track appointments by the time or after sections 4.70.10-14 become effective and who do not have Graduate Faculty status shall be nominated for that status by the chair or the director of the department, school, or program in which they have a formal appointment if in the view of the official in question, they meet the criteria specified in 4.70.10. The chair or director shall submit a letter of nomination, together with a curriculum vitae, to the Dean of the Graduate School, who shall review the material and submit it to the Graduate Council which shall decide on the nomination.

4.70.14 Periodic Review of Graduate Faculty Member Status. The Graduate Faculty status of all members of the Graduate Faculty shall be subject to periodic reviews. The status of non-tenured tenure-track faculty members shall be reviewed annually, that of tenured assistant and associate professors biannually, and that of tenured full professors quadrennially. Renewal of Graduate Faculty status shall be based on a determination that a faculty member continues to meet the conditions for Graduate Faculty membership as specified in 4.70.10. The faculty member’s chair or director (see 4.70.13) shall solicit statements from the faculty member’s peers serving in that person’s department or program and submit these statements, together with his or her own recommendation, to the Dean of the Graduate School, who shall review the material and submit it to the Graduate Council. The Council shall decide on renewal or non-

¹ What about people who do not have the highest degree when they are appointed, but earn the degree after their appointment?
Question to 4.70.12: What if it is “pretty clear” that a newly hired faculty member will not be involved in graduate education?

Problem: How does a person who is currently on the URI faculty but not on the Graduate Faculty become a member of the latter if “continued demonstration of one’s effectiveness as an educator and/or mentor of students in graduate degree programs” is a condition of Graduate Faculty status, and if only Graduate Faculty members can be involved in these activities?

Possible solution: Maybe a department chair/program director should be able to nominate a faculty member not yet meeting condition (4) of 4.70.10, submitting a plan outlining how the faculty member in question will, for the next couple of years, meet the requirement. If Graduate Faculty status is approved for that person, the first status review is to examine in particular whether that plan is actually being carried out. If this solution to the circularity problem is adopted, appropriate language needs to be included in the provisions formulated above.

Below is the version the Graduate Council approved, which is the same version originally presented to the Faculty Senate in November 2012.

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.

B. Programs of Study - how best to encourage their timely development and submission.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment