I.  Call to order

II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting Number 482, 8 September 2014

III. Announcements

A. Introduction of new members of the 2014-2015 Graduate Council

B. Recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

DAN CODIGA  GSO  9/10/2014
STEPHEN KENNEDY  ELECTRICAL, COMP, & BIOMED ENG  9/12/2014
KUNAL MANKODIYA  ELECTRICAL, COMP, & BIOMED ENG  9/12/2014
GARY WIKFORS  FISH, ANIM, & VET SCIENCE  9/15/2014
JOHN JENSEN  HISTORY  9/17/2014

C. Responsible Conduct of Research compliance; start date = students matriculating in Fall 2014 and beyond

D. Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards

E. 2014 Graduate Faculty Summit -- update

F. Graduate Council representative for the Learning Outcomes Oversight Committee

G. Multicultural Competence Training/Certification for Graduate Students

IV. Committees

Nominating Committee

a. Recommendation for committee memberships

b. Call for nominations for commencement speaker

V. Topics for Discussion – possible changes in the Fall 2014 Graduate School Manual

A. Section 3.23

A recent situation has prompted consideration of changes in Section 3.23 of the Graduate School Manual. The intention is to modify this section of the Manual to reduce the
possibility of admitting students who are not qualified to be successful in a graduate degree program.

Current wording in GSM Section 3.23

“3.23. To be accepted into a graduate program, applicants are expected to have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) in their undergraduate work and have satisfactory scores on the appropriate, designated nationally administered test(s). Applicants with undergraduate averages below the B level, but not less than 2.00, may be admitted based upon other evidence of academic potential, i.e., satisfactory performance in post-baccalaureate work (see Sec. 3.30), relevant professional experience as evidenced by publications or letters of recommendation, and/or high scores in the standardized tests referred to above. “

Proposed wording for GSM Section 3.23 ..... a starting point for discussion

3.23. To be accepted into a graduate program, applicants are expected to have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) in their undergraduate work, or in previous graduate work, and have satisfactory scores on the appropriate, designated nationally administered test(s). Applicants with undergraduate averages below 3.0, but not less than 2.5, may be admitted based upon other evidence of academic potential, i.e., satisfactory performance in post-baccalaureate work (see Sec. 3.30), relevant professional experience as evidenced by publications or letters of recommendation, and/or high scores in the standardized tests referred to above.

B. Section 3.33

Current wording in GSM Section 3.33

“3.33. Advanced Standing Credits: Advanced standing refers to credits taken at the University of Rhode Island by a non-matriculating student or by a student in one degree program before formally beginning another program. In instances where a student plans to take a course or courses while in one degree program so as to apply those credits to a more advanced degree at a later date, the student must request and receive written prior approval from the Dean of the Graduate School before enrolling in said course(s). Credits earned at the University of Rhode Island by a non-matriculating student may be applied as advanced standing toward degree requirements only upon the recommendation of the student's major professor and the Graduate Program Director and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. To be eligible, these credits must have been earned within a five-year period before matriculating into the degree program in question. The following cases apply”

Proposed change in GSM Section 3.33

To be eligible, these credits must have been earned within a seven-year period before matriculating into the degree program in question.

C. Sections 7.44.35 and 5.56.1

Although the Office of Research Integrity originally proposed that four RCR seminars qualify as meeting the requirement for RCR training (please see below), they have recently asked that three seminars meet the requirement, rather than four.
“The required RCR training can be accomplished by: 1) Completing the online CITI training, 2) complete an approved course that covers research ethics, or 3) attend and participate in four RCR seminars sponsored by the Office of Research Integrity.”

Because the Council voted to accept four RCR seminars as one of the ways to meet the RCR compliance requirement, we need to discuss and vote on the request to change this requirement option to three RCR seminars.

D. Section 7.57.1.2

Current wording in GSM Section 7.57.1.2

“7.57.1.2 Part II - Oral: The oral comprehensive examination shall be given only upon successful completion of, and normally within four weeks after, the written examination. In unusual circumstances and with prior approval from the Graduate School, when one member of the oral comprehensive examination committee cannot be physically present, that member may be electronically present in the form of an audio/video feed such as Skype. Only a maximum of one member of the committee can participate by audio/video feed, and that person cannot be the student’s major professor.”

Question – the Council decided to allow only one member of a defense committee to participate by audio/video feed such as Skype, but does the same sentiment apply to oral comprehensive examination committees? Also, is the major professor excluded from appearing by audio/video feed?

VI. Topics for Discussion – policies that guide the selection and distribution of fellowships and scholarships.

Rather than relying solely on the Scholarship, Fellowship and Excellence Award Committee to consider possible changes to the policies that apply to fellowships and scholarships, we thought it would be worth discussing this as a committee of the whole.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Adjournment