I. The meeting was called to order at 1:59 p.m. by Associate Dean Harold Bibb.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 432 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. A welcome was given to Kathleen Davis of the English Department who will be replacing Jennifer Jones for the remainder of the Spring 2009 Graduate Council meetings.

B. Recent Appointments to the Graduate Faculty

William Buffum, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Natural Resources Sciences
Marion Gold, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

IV. New Business

A. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck discussed a proposal he and Associate Dean Bibb made to revise the current process of making Adjunct Faculty appointments. Currently, Adjunct Faculty appointments are made by Vice Provost Clifford Katz, while the Graduate School appoints Graduate Faculty. Departments often send all requests to the Graduate School, or ask only for Adjunct Status rather than asking for Graduate Faculty status as well, should it be needed. Deans Bibb and Killingbeck met with Vice Provost Katz to propose that the Graduate School should make all Adjunct Faculty appointments. This would include Undergraduate and Graduate Adjunct Faculty appointments. Both Associate Deans feel that number will be small. They provided to the Vice Provost a copy of the draft of a new form that will be used to make those appointment requests. Concern was expressed by several members of Council that this new procedure may put a further strain on the already limited resources of the staff at the Graduate School. Associate Dean Bibb felt that due to the limited number of appointments and the overall ease of the new process that it may actually lessen the strain on Graduate School staff members. The proposal is currently being reviewed by the Provost’s office and the Council will be updated as new information emerges.

B. Associate Dean Harold Bibb discussed the recent amendments by the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) regarding proposed minima of graduates
and enrollees in a graduate program. While the language for graduate programs was modified, the minima remain the same. The policy is that the RI Office of Higher Education “may request reviews for programs that for three consecutive years fall below the following specified completions thresholds” -- “fewer than six degrees awarded at the master’s level” and “fewer than four degrees awarded at the doctorate level.” Associate Dean Bibb wanted to make sure that departments understood that there are a number of additional criteria that are used in evaluating a program during a review. Those criteria should be addressed by the program if a review is initiated. Associate Dean Bibb stated that a copy of the memo from the RIBGHE would be distributed to Council Members and Graduate Directors.

V. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Committee

Changes Approved:
HDF551 Counseling Theory and Techniques – change in prerequisite
LSC547 Information Storage and Retrieval – change in title to read LSC547 Information Storage and Retrieval, and Online Searching and a change in description
CSC522/MIC522/STA522 Bioinformatics I – change in course code and number to BPS542/CSC522/MIC422/STA522.

New Courses Approved:
LSC590 Introduction to Chinese Information Services
CSC590 Digital Forensics Practicum

Courses Deleted:
LSC549 Information Storage and Retrieval

VI. Old Business

VII. Notes of Interest

A. Matthew Freeman noted that a he was hopeful to find a Graduate Council replacement for Pankaj Ahire at the next Graduate Student Association (GSA) meeting to take place on Wednesday 28, 2009.

B. There will be another GSA academic job panel in late February or early March.

C. The GSA has some funding sources available for Graduate Students for expenses such as Thesis or Dissertation binding.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.