I. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Associate Dean Killingbeck.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 441 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck reported to Council on the Learning Outcomes Assessment workshop for the four exemplar programs, the Council Assessment Committee, and the mini-grant winners. The group was enthusiastic about finding the best process for evaluation and assessment of graduate programs.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the call for nominations for Doctoral Dissertation Awards. In past years the call for nominations was presented in March but will now be moved to January each year. Eligibility dates have been changed to reflect the previous calendar year. Those nominations from last year that graduated in Spring 2009 or Summer 2009 and were not winners, were held over to be considered for this year. Council members offered suggestions for possible changes regarding who is eligible to receive the awards for next year as well if additional funding becomes available in the future.

C. Interim Dean Zawia updated Council on the progress of Program Profiles which are due to the Graduate School by 15 February 2010.

D. Interim Dean Zawia announced that notification was sent out to those who submitted a proposal for the Enhancement of Graduate Education mini-grants. There were 42 awards given out. The Graduate School is prepared to start distribution of the funds immediately.
IV. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum Committee

Changes Approved
HDF 511 Seminar in Infancy through Childhood – change in title and catalog description
HDF 512 Seminar in Adolescence Through Young Adulthood – change in title and course description
HDF 513 Seminar in Adulthood – delete course
HDF 514 Seminar in Older Adulthood – change course number to HDF 513, change in course description
BIO 545 Endocrinology II – change in course description and prerequisites
OCG 540 Geological Oceanography – change in credit and course description
LSC 545 Indexing and Abstracting – change in course description

New Courses Approved
ENG 432 Cultural History of the English Language (3)
ENG 478 Medieval Authors (3)
ENG 479 Renaissance Authors (3)
BCH/MIC 435 Introduction to the Biology and Genetics of Cancer (3)
OCG 648 Paleoceanography (3)

Tabled
ELE 470 Advanced Topics in Computer Engineering (3)
EDP 613 Quantitative Analysis in Educational Research (4)
WMS 590 Special Topics in Women’s Studies (3)
CVE 477/577 Environmental Sustainability and Green Engineering (3)
NUR 504 Advanced Pediatric Physical Assessment (2)
OCG 509 Satellite Oceanography (3)
PHY 545 Nanotechnology in Imaging and Therapy (3)
PHY 550 Introduction to Radiation Physics and Dosimetry (3)
PHY 552 Radiobiology (3)
PHY 555 Radiation Oncology Practicum (3)
PHY 565 Photomedicine (3)

Approved Additional Curricular Matters
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

❯ CHANGES OF TO THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

Request independent of the Four Credit Proposal.

• Changes to the catalog language:

DELETE: If they wish, students may choose to emphasize a 12-credit focus area by completing 12 credits in one of the following focus areas: identity studies (ENG /AAF 247, 248; ENG 260, 337, 338; ENG / AAF 363, 364; ENG 385 387); genre studies (ENG 243, 262, 263, 264, 265, 300, 304, 336, 339; ENG / AAF 362; ENG 446, 447, 448, 469); creative writing and publishing studies (ENG 205A, 205B, 205C, 305, 330; WRT 201, 235, 333); cultural studies with period emphasis (ENG 302, 332, 347, 348; ENG /CLS 350; ENG 351, 374, 375, 474; or any one 300- or 400-level course approved for one of the five periods). ENG 499, an optional capstone senior seminar (in which a senior thesis is written), may be taken for three of the 15 credits required to complete the major.

College of Arts and Sciences
Graduate School of Library and Information Studies

❯ GSLIS Policy on Academic Standing and Scholastic Probation

Academic Standards for Matriculating MLIS Students: A student shall be placed on scholastic probation (provisional status) if the student's cumulative scholastic average falls below a 3.00. If the student is unable to achieve a cumulative average of 3.00 at the end of the next semester, or if the student's cumulative average falls below 3.00 again in a subsequent semester, GSLIS will recommend to the Graduate School that the student be dismissed from the MLIS program for academic reasons.

For purposes of determining dismissal of part-time students, an accumulation of nine (9) attempted credits will be considered as the minimum standard for one semester's work. Therefore, a matriculated student shall be recommended for dismissal for scholastic reasons if he or she earns a cumulative average of:

- Less than 2.5 for the first 6 attempted credits
- Less than 2.7 for the first 9 attempted credits
- Less than 2.75 for the first 12 attempted credits
- Less than 2.8 for the first 15 attempted credits
• Less than 3.0 for the first 18 attempted credits, or at any subsequent point in the program

In addition, no course for which a student earns less than a C shall be counted toward graduation. A student earning less than a C in a required course must take the course again for program credit; a student earning less than a C in an elective may substitute a different course for program credit.

A course with a failing grade that has been retaken or replaced will be considered taken for no plan credit but must remain on the student’s transcript and be included in calculating the quality point average. If the course is retaken and a satisfactory grade achieved, it may then be used to satisfy degree requirements. In all cases any failing grade (a grade of C- or lower for 500-600 level, a grade of B- or lower for 400 level courses) must be included in the grade point average and appear on the transcript.

When a student receives a report of “incomplete” (I) or when no grade is reported, the student’s standing shall be calculated from the remainder of the student’s work.

Notification: A student whose grade point average falls below 3.00 is notified by the Graduate School (see attached sample letter from the Associate Dean of the Graduate School). The Director of the Library School will request that the Graduate School attach an additional letter from GSLIS, explaining the above criteria for academic dismissal, and that the student be dismissed if the criteria are met.

Procedure for Appealing Dismissal: The Director of GSLIS, in consultation with the Dean of the Graduate School, will notify any student who is subject to academic probation or dismissal.

Students recommended for dismissal shall have the right to appeal to the Director within five business days of the date of notice by filing with the Director a written statement explaining the extenuating circumstances and stating the reasons why the dismissal action should not prevail.

A scholastic standing committee shall be established for GSLIS. The membership shall comprise the Director and two or more GSLIS faculty members. This committee shall review the student’s appeal and confirm the recommendation for dismissal, or recommend continuing the student on probation. The decision of the Scholastic Standing Committee shall be final.

The Scholastic Standing Committee shall meet as soon after the end of each final grade period as is practicable.
Every case of dismissal and of action on appeals shall be reported by the Director to the Graduate School. Dismissal shall result in the loss of matriculating status.

Reinstatement of Matriculating Students: The GSLIS Admissions Committee may recommend a student who has been dismissed for reenrollment after a period of one academic year. The student seeking reinstatement shall submit a written request to the Admissions Committee. If in the Committee’s judgment, incorporating the evidence from any LIS work or course work taken elsewhere, the student may reasonably be expected to do satisfactory work, it shall forward its recommendation for reenrollment to the Graduate School.

Appeal of Grades: Faculty members bear responsibility for the evaluation of students and their professional judgment in this regard is to be respected.

1. GSLIS students who object to a recorded grade in a course should discuss the matter initially with the instructor.
2. If the issue remains unresolved, students should make their case in writing to the GSLIS Director. If the Director thinks the appeal has merit, she/he should so inform the instructor.
3. If this still fails to produce resolution, the Director should refer the matter to the GSLIS Scholastic Standing Committee for a recommendation. (For petitions concerning grades, the Scholastic Standing Committee shall include a faculty member from a closely allied department or discipline.)
   a. If, after investigating the appeal, the committee concludes that compelling reasons exist to modify a grade, it will give the instructor a written explanation of its decision and ask that person to make the change.
   b. If the instructor still declines, he/she must provide the committee with a written explanation of the reasons for refusing.
   c. If, after considering the instructor’s explanation, the committee agrees unanimously that it would be unjust to let the original grade stand, it shall direct the Director that the grade be changed over the instructor’s objection. The Director will then initiate the change, notifying the instructor, the student, the instructor’s dean, the student’s dean, and the Office of Student Affairs of this action.

The only exception to these guidelines shall be in cases where the instructor can no longer be consulted (e.g., that person has died or moved to an unknown address). In these circumstances, the Director shall act in the stead of the absent instructor and modify a student’s grade if a departmental or college appeals committee unanimously recommends such action in writing. In general,
grades under appeal should not be considered when evaluating students for continuance in an academic program or for scholarship eligibility. The filing of the appeal must occur within two semesters following the issuing of the grade.

❖ Proposed change to GSLIS admissions policy

The current GSLIS admissions policy reads:

“Admission requirements: bachelor’s degree (B average); if undergraduate GPA is below 3.00 or equivalent, GRE or MAT at the 50th percentile or above” (URI 2009-10 Catalog, p. 148).

At the September 2, 2009 meeting, the GSLIS faculty voted to amend this to read:

“Admission requirements: bachelor’s degree (B average); if undergraduate GPA is below 3.30 or equivalent, GRE or MAT at the 50th percentile or above.”

Rationale: The GSLIS admissions policy was last amended in 2006, permitting the waiver of standardized tests for all applicants who have earned either advanced degrees or undergraduate averages of at least 3.00. Although we had never found test scores a useful predictor of student performance, after three years of trial, we believe the bar should be set higher.

Graduate School of Oceanography

❖ Change in required courses for physical oceanography option in the M.S. in Oceanography degree

Students pursuing an M.S. in Oceanography degree under the physical oceanography emphasis are now required to take the courses listed below. The previous requirement to take two of the three courses (OCG 605, 610 and 613) is no longer valid.

501 Physical Oceanography (3)
Basic course covering physical properties of seawater, heat budget, distribution of variables, dynamics, water masses and general circulation, waves and tides. (Lec. 3) Pre: PHY 203.

510 Descriptive Physical Oceanography (3)
Observed distributions of temperature, salinity, currents; methods of deducing deep flow; physical properties of seawater; flow in estuaries; practical work in the analysis of oceanographic data; study of recent literature. (Lec. 3) Pre: 501.
613 Waves (3)
Generation, propagation, and decay of surface waves, internal waves, and Rossby waves in the ocean. (Lec. 3) Pre: MCE 550 or permission of instructor.

B. Graduate Manual Revision Committee

The revision of Sections 8 and 9 of the Graduate School Manual completed by the Graduate Manual Revision Committee was reviewed and approved pending minor editorial changes.

VI. New Business

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck asked Council to review the current policy of eligibility to march requirements for Graduate Commencement. The following was approved:

General Policy and Wording for Eligibility to March in Graduate Commencement Passed Unanimously by the Graduate Council

Policy for Determining Eligibility to March in Graduate Commencement of Year x*

✓ Those who have completed their degree requirements by August (x minus 1), December (x minus 1), or May x

✓ Those who will have completed their course work during or before the Spring x semester and will have successfully defended their dissertations/theses (if a dissertation or thesis is required) by the appropriate Friday in April x listed in the Graduate School deadline calendar

✓ Those who will have completed both their course work and their clinical internships by 15 September x

* x = the year in which commencement occurs. If x = 2009, then x minus 1 = 2008.

Example for 2010

ELIGIBILITY TO MARCH

7
Participation in the graduate commencement ceremony acknowledges the completion of degree requirements and signifies academic accomplishment of the highest order. **Graduate candidates** eligible to march in the ceremonies include the following:

- Those who have completed their degree requirements by August 2009, December 2009, or May 2010

- Those who will have completed their course work during or before the Spring 2010 semester and will have successfully defended their dissertations/theses (if a dissertation or thesis is required) by 23 April 2010

- Those who will have completed both their course work and their clinical internships by 15 September 2010

For further information, visit the Commencement Web site [www.uri.edu/commencement](http://www.uri.edu/commencement).

B. Discussion regarding the current University policy of deleting a course if it has not been offered for two years and is not scheduled for a third was tabled until the next meeting.

C. Discussion regarding 599 and 699 research courses – S/U grading only was tabled until the next meeting.

**VII. Old Business**

**VIII. The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.**