The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm by Interim Dean Zawia. Each Council member introduced him/herself to the group and all were welcomed by the Interim Dean.

The Minutes of Meeting No. 445 were unavailable and approval was tabled until the next meeting.

Announcements

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the winners of the 2010 Excellence in Doctoral Research Awards. These awards are given to recent graduates who have excelled in their doctoral research. Each winner received a $1,000 check and certificate of achievement. Associate Dean Killingbeck noted that the Graduate School is working to move the deadline for nomination for these awards to an earlier date.

Dr. Autumn Oczkowski (GSO) was awarded the STEM Award for her work
Fertilizing the Land, Lagoons and Sea: A First Look at Human Impact on the Nile Delta Fishery, Egypt

Dr. Aaron Tillman (English) was awarded the Non-STEM Award for his work
Magical American Jew: The Enigma of Difference in Contemporary Jewish American Short Fiction and Film

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

Daniel Udwary, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Gary Schulte, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Shahla Yekta, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing
Jodi Lisberger, Professor, Department of English
Jeffrey Moffitt, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Ronald Baird, Adjunct Professor, Department of Fisheries, Animal and Veterinary Science
C. Associate Dean Killingbeck reviewed the processes involved with assigning graduate and adjunct faculty status and the changes that are being made to those procedures. Going forward, the Provost’s office will award adjunct faculty status and the Graduate School will continue to award graduate faculty status. An electronic format for graduate faculty status nominations is being developed.

D. Interim Dean Zawia gave a brief synopsis of the role of a Council member with regards to the greater graduate community. The Council sets policy, standards and guidelines for graduate education.

E. Interim Dean Zawia updated the Council regarding the Graduate Task Force. The task force was created at the behest of the Provost with the aim of forwarding graduate education as part of the University Strategic Academic Plan. Goals include enhancing research and innovation, strengthening the financial base of the graduate school, expanding international and global programs, increasing the diversity of faculty and students and developing and supporting interdisciplinary and experiential research programs. These goals and other task force recommendations will be used in the future by the Council to create a Graduate School Strategic Plan.

F. Interim Dean Zawia addressed and explained the program for Graduate Research Enhancement Grants. This program grants recipient students up to $1,000 to use for travel, research equipment, supplies and other scholastic endeavors. The Graduate School was able to support 40 students last year with the financial backing of the Provost’s Office and the Research office. He announced that the Provost has enabled this program to continue again this year, with his continued financial support. Interim Dean Zawia noted that due to the amount of expected nominations for these grants, all members of Council will act as reviewers, using an online format to evaluate applicants for upcoming grants. Concerns were noted about the restrictive time table for using the funds. Discussion of inviting the Provost to a Council meeting was broached for consideration in the future.

G. Interim Dean Zawia introduced Council to the details of a new admissions and enrollment system to replace our current system. The new system will be hosted by Hobsons and will streamline the process of admissions and enrollment on all fronts. Funding of the system is currently being reviewed by the state.
IV. Committees

A. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck distributed Self-Nomination Forms for committee choice before he and Interim Dean Nasser Zawia introduced and explained the workings of Graduate School committees and the role of Council members on said committees.

   i. New Graduate Program Committee
   ii. Graduate Curriculum Committee
   iii. Graduate School Academic Policies, Standards and Appeals Committee
   iv. Graduate Scholarship, Fellowship and Excellence Award Committee
   v. Graduate Program Assessment Committee

B. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Naomi Mandel, Mayrai Gindy and Brian Gallagher volunteered.

V. Presentation by Interim Dean Zawia: Graduate Program Profiles and the Introduction of an Improved Admissions Process

VI. New Business

A. Ms. Megan Verry invited all members to the Graduate School/GSA Bowling Night on Monday 13 September 2010

VII. Old Business

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm