Council Members Present: Lori Ciccomascolo, Mayrai Gindy, Graham Forrester, Terry Deeney, Rebecca Robinson, Naomi Mandel, Mary Sullivan, Gerhard Muller, Gary Stoner, Henry Oppenheimer, John Szczepanski, Mustafa Kulenovic and David Rowley.

Council Members Not Present: Arthur McDonald, Benjamin Young and Brian Gallagher.

Others Present: Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Dr. Alycia Austin, Ms. Megan Verry, Mrs. Michelle Grambley

I. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by Associate Dean Killingbeck.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 449 were approved.

III. Announcements

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

   Brian Tefft, Adjunct Professor (Master’s Committees Only), Department of Natural Resources Science

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck gave a brief recap of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools. Some key points from the meeting were the changes in demographics that are being projected in the student populations of India and China as well as a change in the number of female versus male degree seekers. A modification to the structure of the GRE was also discussed. Due to the changes and the need to test their system and accrue data, the GRE will be offering a 50% reduced fee to students taking the test in August and September of 2011.

C. Associate Dean Killingbeck discussed the Awards for Excellence in Doctoral Research. These awards are given to recently graduated doctoral students who have exhibited excellence in research. Recipients, one student in the STEM fields and one non-STEM student, were each awarded $1,000 last year. The nominations for these awards are currently being solicited. A handout was circulated.

IV. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee

   Changes Approved
   EDC 423 Teaching Comp and Response in Elementary School – change in prerequisite
   EDC 485 Seminar in Teaching – change in prerequisite
TMD 442 Fashion Promotion – change in prerequisite
PHP 503 Health Systems I – change catalog description
KIN 540X Interdisciplinary Research and Methods in KIN – change number of credits
EDC 586 Problems in Education – change title
MAC 503 Taxation of Corporations and Shareholders – change title, catalog description, prerequisite and method
MBA 560 Operations and Supply Chain Management – change in prerequisite
ELE 548 Computer Architecture – change in prerequisite

New Courses Approved
MTH 555 Dynamical Systems (3)

Tabled
CVE 493 Civil Engineering Design Studies
OCE 467 Design of Remotely Operated Vehicles

Additional Curricular Matters Approved
1) College of Human Science and Services
   Department of Human Development and Family Studies

   Approval was granted to the Department of Human Development and Family Studies regarding the reduction in number of internship credits from 6 to 3, the reduction in total number of program credits from 41 to 39 and the increase in number of professional seminar credits in HDF 581 from 1 to 2.

B. New Program Committee

Council member Lori Ciccomascolo updated the committee and reopened discussion about the Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program (INP) which was approved by an email vote of 8 to 1 following the last Council meeting. Upon the opening of discussion, a question was raised regarding the ‘counting’ of students in programs and how it would apply to interdisciplinary work like this. Lori Ciccomascolo noted that students would be counted in both programs in which they are involved. Other concerns were again raised that the funding sources needed to develop this program may not be established. Lori addressed this saying that the Provost had been consulted and was committed to supporting the program. Associate Dean Killingbeck mentioned that the Graduate School would not be the funding agency and that funding was being sought through the University and elsewhere. Another issue was raised regarding having the Graduate School spearheading the program. The concern was both the issue of insufficient resources and support for the Graduate School as well as the perception of a conflict of interest. Lori responded to the issue by saying that
the Provost is aware of the needs and has committed to supporting the program. As to the issue of potential conflict of interest, Lori responded that the Dean felt strongly about spearheading this venture at its inception and agreed that policy could be implemented to prevent conflicts of interest. She also noted, towards both points mentioned above, that the Faculty Senate will have the opportunity to speak to the issues being raised concerning funding and conflict of interest at their next meeting.

V. Presentations –

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck and council member Lori Ciccomascolo gave a recap of the presentation on graduate student learning outcomes assessment at URI that was recently given to the Board of Governors.

VI. Policy Issues –

A. The council discussed the issue of 400-level and 400/500-level courses with regard to graduate education. Considerable concern was raised about the lack of differentiation between undergraduate level work and graduate level work in “slash” courses (400/500) or 400- and 500-level courses taught in the same room at the same time. A motion was approved requesting the Graduate Curriculum Committee call for a distinct clarification of 400/500-level classes in course proposals. The intent is to require that a distinction be made on the proposal between graduate and undergraduate work.

B. Final approval of successfully-defended theses and dissertations – discussion tabled due to time constraints.

VII. New Business – None addressed

VIII. Old Business –

A. Proposed new wording for Section 7.73 of the Graduate Manual – Approved unanimously.

7.73 Should a student fail part or all of an examination, the examining committee may recommend that one re-examination be allowed, but the final decision whether or not to permit a second examination rests with the Dean of the Graduate School. If a re-examination is recommended, the examining committee must provide the student with instructions for remedying the deficiencies identified in the first examination. Any special conditions that the student will be expected to fulfill in the preparation for a second examination must accompany the recommendation to allow a re-examination. No more than one re-examination will ever be allowed. If the second examination is failed,
the student is no longer eligible to complete the degree program in which they are enrolled. Students failing a re-examination in a Master’s degree program will not have the opportunity to complete a thesis-based or non-thesis-based Master’s degree program.

B. Proposed new wording for Section 9.11 of the Graduate Manual – Tabled with the expectation that modified wording will be presented at the next meeting of the Graduate Council.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm