I. The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Associate Dean Killingbeck.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 452 were approved. Should we include the question by Gerhard brought up here about revamping the awards process? Or put it under B in Announcements?

III. Announcements

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

Anubhav Tripathi, Adjunct Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering
Debra Erickson-Owens, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing
Paraskevi Nomikou, Adjunct Professor, Department of Geosciences
Peng Wang, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering
Ariel Lugo, Adjunct Professor, Department of Oceanography

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the winners of the 2011 Graduate School Excellence in Doctoral Research Awards. Kerri Byron was the STEM based recipient and Matthew Otelieva was the non-STEM recipient. Congratulations to both recipients and their respective departments.

C. Associate Dean Killingbeck discussed the Graduate School nominees for the 2011 URI Distinguished Achievement Awards. The candidates that have been chosen by the Graduate School for consideration are Autumn Oskowsky and Aaron Tillman, both of whom previously won the Graduate School Excellence in Doctoral Research Award. These are awards given to former students who have distinguished themselves through their post-academic endeavors.

IV. Committees
A. Curriculum Committee

**Changes Approved**

OCE 467 Design of Remotely Operated Vehicles

**New Courses Approved**

NUR 509 Advanced Assessment for Acute Care NP Practice  
EDP 665 Social Justice in Higher Education

**Tabled**

MBA 588 Marketing and Communications Management  
ENG 514 Studies in Critical Theories

**Additional Curricular Matters Approved**

None

V. **Policy Matters** –

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck addressed the issue of online graduate courses and the addition of online sections to existing graduate courses. The conversation about this issue was spawned by the addition of an online component to the existing graduate course of MBA 502. Under the current system, neither the Graduate School, nor the Faculty Senate have a position of authority to review or sign off on the addition of such sections. Mayrai Gindy and others on the Council inquired as to the process involved in creating and utilizing online courses. David Rowley and Naomi Mendel also had questions regarding the validity of such courses and how they are run. Everyone was in agreement that they were uncomfortable with evaluating courses of this type as they did not have the requisite expertise necessary to properly review them. Questions were raised about who is responsible, at the University, for online offerings and what is required for submission regarding new and additional online courses. Associate Dean Killingbeck mentioned that the Council may want to speak with whoever is in charge of such things or the Education department to better understand the process for review and acceptance of such courses. The Council members commented that they can see value in and a future move towards online courses but that a system of review, regulation and authentication is imperative. Associate Dean Killingbeck promised to look into this and work on creating a proposal to present at a future meeting.

VI. **New Business** – None Addressed

VII. **Old Business** –

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck broached the issue of signature authority regarding the defense form. Previously, discussion of the matter surrounded the issue that all members present at a defense should have authorization to request verification that requested changes were made post defense. He let the Council know that he
is working diligently to resolve the issue and come up with a feasible corrective measure to present to the Council for a vote at a future meeting.

B. Rebecca Robinson revisited the issue of the differing preferences between faculty for the format of defendable dissertation copies. She referenced the fact that many faculty are turning towards electronic copies versus paper, for a number of reasons. Associate Dean Killingbeck conceded that though we will still need a “hard” copy for binding in the Library, considering an electronic format for the defendables made a good deal of sense. Discussion that followed included the provision for different electronic formats including upload to a secure site, CD or emailed PDF. Associate Dean Killingbeck answered questions about how electronic submission of defendables would affect the deadlines and processes currently in place at the Graduate School. After much discussion, there was a motion made by David Rowley and seconded by Rebecca Robinson that would allow the faculty to elect to receive an electronic copy of the defense in lieu of a paper copy. There was a friendly amendment to this motion that provided for an appropriate modification to the Graduate School Manual to reflect this change. This was voted upon and unanimously approved by the Council.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm