Council Members Present: Brian Gallagher, Gary Stoner, Graham Forrester, Naomi Mandel, Mary Sullivan, Henry Oppenheimer, Megan O’Brien, Scott Martin, Gerhard Muller, David Rowley, Larry Englander, Terry Deeney, Martin Sadd (for Mayrai Gindy) and Kevin McClure.

Council Members Not Present: Rebecca Robinson, and Mustafa Kulenovic.

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:03p.m. by Dean Zawia.

The Minutes of Meeting No. 454 were approved.

Announcements

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced that Dr. Autumn Oczkowski and Dr. Aaron Tillman were each selected as recipients of the 2011 Distinguished Achievement Awards and explained the history of the awards. These awards are historically given to alumni, mostly of undergraduate programs, who have distinguished themselves over a long career. The nominees are recommended by the individual colleges and departments in their fields. The Graduate School was hitherto not encouraged to submit the names of potential recipients. However, the feeling was strong that the Graduate School should submit names moving forward from this point. Both Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck were pleased to announce that after some discussion, the Graduate School now has the ability to nominate candidates for this award. Dean Zawia opened discussion as to the process for selection of future nominees. The Graduate School is currently focusing on recent graduates who have established themselves early in their fields as “rising stars”. Dr. Austin noted that we should be sure to consider creating a process to allow the consideration of masters students as well as doctoral for these and other awards.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the recent appointments to Graduate Faculty Status and reviewed the process for nominating faculty for this status.

Mary Healey-Jamiel, Department of Film Media and Communications Studies; Masters committees only
C. Dean Zawia reported on the first ever Graduate Retreat being planned for 18 November 2011. He updated the Council on the progress including the venue, date, keynote speaker and general agenda for the day and what will be presented. The hope for this event is to begin the process in creating a strategic plan for the future of graduate education at URI. He asked each member to act as an ambassador for this event with their departments to discern what the wants and needs of departments are and what they would like to see discussed at the event.

D. Dean Zawia gave a presentation on the past and current enrollment and admissions data for graduate programs at URI. These and other data will be presented at the above mentioned retreat. All of the data presented were collated by the Graduate School based on figures directly from e-campus and may differ from data received from individual departments. Dean Zawia made a point to discourge prescreening as it can negatively impact funding opportunities as well as skew the admissions and enrollment data. Some concern was noted by members of the council regarding the discrepancies in data as well as the prescreening issue and fairness to students who may apply.

E. Dean Zawia discussed the Enhancement of Graduate Research Awards (EGRA). These are small funding opportunities ($500-$1,000) presented each year by the Graduate School for use by students. Information will be coming out 1 October 2011 regarding the awards process for this year; students should apply directly to the Graduate School.

Committees

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck addressed the need to establish a Nomination Committee to assign Council members to different committees for this year. As part of this process, sign-up sheets were handed out requesting council members to choose committees on which they would like to serve.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck reviewed the charges and goals of each committee on the sign-up
A request was made to change the name of the Scholarship, Fellowship and Excellence Award Committee to the Scholarship, Fellowship and Awards Committee.

**Graduate School Manual**

A. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated the Council on the revision process and current evolution of the Graduate School Manual.

B. Associate Dean Killingbeck proposed a change to the wording of Section 8.42.3 of the Graduate School Manual for clarification purposes, specifically to remove the word “usually”. A motion was made and seconded to remove the word “usually” from this section. An amendment was made to the motion to remove the word “is” that falls directly before the word “usually”; motion was seconded and passed. The main motion was then passed. There was one “no” vote to the both motions.

C. Dean Zawia extended his thanks to all of those on the Council who participated in the revision process of the Graduate School Manual.

**New Business** – None

**Old Business** – None

**Meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.**