I. The meeting was called to order at 2:06pm by Dean Zawia.

II. The Minutes of Meeting No. 461 were approved with minor editorial changes noted below:

   Section III item D., last sentence should now read, “There will be two large cohorts; one will have their assessment plans due in Spring of 2013 and the other in Spring of 2014.”

   Section V item A. (1), the correct wording of the accepted motion regarding Graduate Faculty Status for newly hired tenure-track faculty is, “Newly hired tenure-track faculty with a terminal degree in their field are automatically nominated for Graduate Faculty Status.”

III. Announcements

   A. Dean Zawia recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

      James Delgado, GSO 2/29/12
      Daniel Codiga, GSO 2/29/12
      Nancy Karraker, Natural Resources Science 3/1/12
      Denise Coppa, Nursing 3/5/12
      Joanne Fawcett Costello, Nursing 3/6/12
      Bethany Jenkins, Cell and Molecular Biology 3/15/12
      Janice Hulme, Physical Therapy (Master’s Only) 3/20/12

   B. Associate Dean Killingbeck announced the winners of the Excellence in Doctoral Research Awards. The winner in the STEM area is Anabela da Maia (Biological Sciences), major professor Cheryl Wilga, for her dissertation titled “Functional Morphology of the Dorsal Fin in Sharks During Steady Swimming and Maneuvering”. The winner in the non-STEM area is Elisabeth O’Bryon (Psychology), major professor Margaret Rogers, for her dissertation titled “Bilingual School Psychologists’ Experiences Consulting with Teachers to Support English Language Learners.” Both students will receive a certificate and an award of one thousand dollars. He also took a moment to thank Kevin McClure and Gerhard Mueller for reviewing the nominations in the non-STEM and STEM disciplines, respectively.
C. Dean Zawia requested suggestions for a speaker for graduate commencement. It was asked that ideas and suggestions be emailed to the Graduate School within a week to ten days because time is of the essence for this year.

D. Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck recently met with Diane Goldsmith, the recent appointment to Director of Learning, Assessment and Online Education, regarding online course proposals. The Curriculum Committee and Dr. Goldsmith feel there is a need for a person or persons with more experience in this area to assess potential online courses previous to it reaching the Graduate Curriculum Committee in order to assure that the criteria for a quality online course is met. There will be more discussion on potential solutions in the future.

IV. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee

**Changes Approved**
- EDC 921, 922, 923 Workshop for Teachers – change in catalog description
- HDF 559 Diversity in Applied Family Settings – change in title and catalog description
- BIO 502/NEU 502 Introduction to Neurobiology – change in listing to a cross listing and in catalog description
- BIO 587/NEU 587 Seminar in Neurobiology - change in listing to a cross listing and in catalog description
- BIO 586/ENT 586 Medical and Veterinary Entomology – change in course number
- MTH 513 Linear Algebra – change in credits and catalog description
- SPA 588 Seminar in Colonial Spanish-American Literature – change in catalog description

**New Courses Approved**
- NEU 501 Introduction to the Neurosciences (4)
- BIO 500 Advanced Science Ethics (1)
- BIO 501 Advanced Scientific Communication (2)
- BIO 553 Regulatory Processes in Eucaryotic Cells (3)
- BIO/NRS 585X Salt Marsh Ecology (4)
- BIO/NRS 585 Salt Marsh Ecology (4)
- BPS 540 Advanced Drug Delivery Systems (3)

**Tabled**
- EDC 429 Emergent Literacy and Storytelling

V. New Program Committee –

A. Dean Zawia reported on the proposal for a Certificate in Lab Quality Management. He noted that the committee felt there were many deficiencies with the original proposal.
They asked for clarification and modification on a number of items from the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology. The revised proposal received was still severely lacking. Just a few of the most concerning issues are listed below:

1. No budget or Budget office approval
2. Delivery format was not acceptable as it is face-to-face in Vietnam, though not through a University or Institution.
3. No documentation was provided regarding the American professional organization that will be going in the name of URI to facilitate this program. Questions such as, is there a license in place to operate there? Would we be in compliance with all the rules and regulations?
4. No assessment or evaluation provided
5. The needs of the program were not addressed
6. No letter of arrangement between URI or CLIS
7. No description of faculty to teach the courses
8. Most concerning was that these courses are already being taught without prior knowledge or approval of this Council or URI

The committee moved to reject the proposal. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Old Business –

A. Dean Zawia opened a discussion regarding A.C.E. Language Institutes and a possible relationship with graduate education here at URI. To present on the matter and answer questions was Nancy Strickland who heads the project for the URI undergraduates, and Rick O’Conner from A.C.E. The A.C.E. program allows prospective international students to study English intensively for a semester or two prior to taking courses in their intended area of study. Council members indicated some frustration regarding prospective students who score above the required total on their TOEFL, however are below by one to two points in an individual area of concentration. Mr. O’Conner indicated that the A.C.E. program was more for prospective students with a more significant deficiency than one or two points in a specific area. Much discussion followed the presentation that resulted in a possible idea of piloting two programs. The first for students who are off by a point or two in one specific area of the TOEFL but their overall score is higher then the required total. If a department wishes to admit such a student, they may be admitted on a conditional basis with the stipulation that they achieve a B or better GPA in courses taken during their ‘conditional semester(s).’ Should the student fall below the 3.0 GPA, a service indicator will be applied to their record for the department and Graduate School to review further. The second pilot program, for students whose TOEFL scores are significantly lower than the required minima, is the A.C.E. program. Should a department wish to offer admission to a candidate for this program, the student will agree to pay the fee for the A.C.E. program which will enable them to come to the University, be evaluated as to the level of instruction needed and study English intensively for a semester in order to achieve the level of English proficiency needed in
order to achieve academic success in a graduate program. More discussion was needed to
decide what the minimum level of acceptance should be as well as a number of other
details that will hopefully ensure the success of these programs. Dean Zawia indicated a
committee of Graduate School staff should meet to further discuss these details and put
together a draft for the pilot programs.

B. Due to time restraints the rest of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

VII. Graduate School Manual -

VIII. New Business -

IX. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm