I. **The meeting was called to order at 2:07pm** by Dean Zawia.

II. **The Minutes of Meeting No. 463** were approved.

III. **Announcements**

A. Dean Zawia recognized recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty

   - **Tom Sproul**, Env & Nat Resource Economics 3/28/12
   - **Corey Lang**, Env & Nat Resource Economics 3/28/12
   - **Renee Hobbs**, Comm Studies, Writ/Rhet, & School of Educ 3/30/12
   - **Jill Doerner**, Sociology & Anthropology 4/5/12
   - **Holly Dunsworth**, Sociology & Anthropology 4/5/12

B. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck both extended their thanks to those members of the council who have completed their service to the Council. The departing student members are Katherine Bowden, Noel Burgess, Scott Martin, and Megan O’Brien. Departing Faculty members are Graham Forrester, Mustafa Kulenovic, Naomi Mandel, Rebecca Robinson, and Mary Sullivan. Dean Zawia also extended a special thank you to Associate Dean Killingbeck for his continued help and dedication to Council with all of his hard work.

C. Dean Zawia congratulated Megan O’Brien on the award of a Fulbright Scholarship.

D. Dean Zawia updated Council on the Fellowship and Scholarship Awards. He thanked those on the Council who helped to review and score all of the applicants. Over 30 offer letters were sent out, but the final number of awards
has not been determined as we are still awaiting notification from some students on if they will accept the awards. He also spoke of the great changes made this year in the award process and thanked Council for their help in this. He continued to report on the need for URI and the Graduate School to focus on gaining training grants like the IGERT, GANN, NFS Fellows, JAVITS, etc.

E. Associate Dean Killingbeck and Dean Zawia spoke about Graduate Commencement and the need for a focus group to help select a speaker, with students and faculty. They also asked if anyone could suggest a speaker from within the University and asked if those suggestions could be forwarded to the Graduate School. An invitation was also extended to Council to attend and participate in the 2012 Graduate Commencement.

F. Welcome back and Congratulations to Alycia Mosley and her husband on the birth of their son!

IV. Committees

A. Curriculum Committee

**Changes Approved**
- EDC 429 Storytelling and Emergent Literacy – change in title, credits, and catalog description
- LSC 520 School Library Media Services – change in credit hours, pre requisites, and catalog description

**Tabled**
- MIC(MLS) 422 Biotechnology of Industrial Microorganisms
- MLS 571 Biotechnology Product Evaluation and Development
- MLS 581 Clinical Research

V. Graduate School Manual –

A. Changes to section 11.22 approved as written below:

**11.22. Authorization to schedule a defense:** Once the defense committee has been established, the next step is to secure the approval of every member of the committee to proceed with the defense and to establish a date and time for the defense. Approval signifies that the thesis/dissertation is in a form acceptable for defense and that it is, in fact, defendable. The requirement that the document be acceptable and defendable means that it 1) is complete and contains all text, data, tables, charts, maps, photographs, appendices, full references, citations, and/or bibliographies as required by accepted standards of academic integrity, 2) represents a finished scholarly product of the student's research in the format required for binding, and 3) is free of obvious fatal flaws.
VI. **Graduate School Retreat** –
Seven goals came out of the Graduate School Retreat which are being incorporated into a strategic plan for the future of the Graduate School.

VII. **Graduate Faculty Status** –
Associate Dean Killingbeck will send out a section of the University Manual regarding Graduate Faculty Status (GFS) for comments from Council. The purpose is to find the best practice for review of Graduate Faculty Status.

VIII. **TOEFL / ACE Language Institutes** –

IX. **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 than 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.

X. **New Business** -

XI. **Meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm**