Council Members Present: Peter August, Jacqueline Britto, David Faflik, Michael Greenfield, Stephen Kogut, Rainer Lohmann, Julia Lovett, Matt Luby, Scott McWilliams, Abran Salazar, Evelyn Sterne, Devon Swanson

Not Present: Denise Coppa, Karen McCurdy, Daniel Sheinin, Matt Porter, Lubo Thoma

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Keith Killingbeck, Megan Yakey, Alycia Mosley Austin

I. Call to order at 2:03PM by Dean Zawia

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 489 were approved.

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia recognized recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

CHRISTINE ZOZULA SOCIOLGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY 3/26/2015
MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN BUSINESS 3/27/2015
LESLIE KEALHOFER-KEMP MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES 4/6/2015
HILDA LLORENS SOCIOLGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY 4/9/2015

B. Dean Zawia and Associate Dean Killingbeck extend thanks to the 5 faculty and 4 students whose term on the Council expires with the final meetings on the 2014-2015 Academic Year. Those leaving are: Denise Coppa, David Faflik, Steve Kogut, Rainer Lohmann, Eve Sterne, Jacqueline Britto, Matt Luby, Matt Porter, Devon Swanson.

C. An additional thanks went out to John Stevenson who will be moving to full retirement.

D. Dean Zawia announced that Angus Taylor is to be the speaker for the 2015 Graduate Commencement on May 16th at the Ryan Center. He has been a big proponent of URI and has a long list of accomplishments.

E. Dean Zawia updated Council regarding the development of a task force to look deeper into the teaching assistantship distribution issue. The Provost reviewed the potential committee. He feels should be faculty driven instead of administrative. We plan to have this task force meet once before year end to receive their charge. A member of Council asked to make sure that there was adequate representation of the humanities on this task force.
F. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated Council on the proposal to change the University Manual to match the Graduate School Manual in the sections pertaining to Graduate Faculty Status. Faculty senate failed to put this item on their agenda so was not voted on.

G. Dean Zawia informed Council of the winner of the 2015 Excellence in Doctoral Research Award. This year’s winner is Dr. Maryjo Brounce from the Graduate School of Oceanography, for her dissertation titled “A Geochemical Investigation of Oxygen Fugacity in the Marianas Subduction Factory”. She was nominated by her Major Professor, Dr. Katie Kelley at GSO. Maryjo graduated in Summer 2014 and immediately received a postdoc at Caltec. As well, she already interviewed for faculty positions at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, and is currently in Paris for a month pursuing part of her postdoctoral research.

He also noted that there were no nominations for non-STEM-discipline dissertations this year.

H. Dean Zawia called for a vote of the graduate degree certification for May 2015. The motion was approved.

I. Associate Dean Killingbeck updated Council on the NAGS conference and recent issue of copyrights and embargos and policies at the University. He remarked that some other universities have wording in their manual that will revoke a degree if a student permanently embargo’s their work. He mentioned that the professionals at Proquest who deal with this frequently are willing to come and speak with the Graduate Council next fall.

J. Dean Zawia also asked for members to think about nominations for the Distinguished Achievements Awards.

IV. Committees

A. Curriculum committee - Keith extended a thank you to this committee for their hard work this year.

Changes Approved
CVE 445 Sustainable Pavement Design
CVE 548 Bituminous Materials and Mix-Design
CVE 549 Transportation Soils and Materials
CVE 641 Pavement Evaluation and Rehabilitation
MCE 550 Continuum Mechanics

New Courses Approved
BME/CHE 466 Biomaterials Engineering
OCE/OCG 513 Ocean Renewable Energy

Tabled
CHN 421 Modern Chinese Literature I
CHN 422 Modern Chinese Literature II
CHN 485 Chinese Studies Seminar I
CHN 486 Chinese Studies Seminar II
CHN 497 Directed Study
CHN 498 Directed Study
SOC 450 White Collar Crime
ISE 445 Facilities Planning and Material Handling

Additional Matters
1. Human Development and Family Studies proposed change to have 36 instead of 39 credits in the MS degree was approved.

V. Graduate School Manual
A. The changes to Sections 7.22 and 3.33 that were approved in the March Council meeting are being brought back to decide if they should be included in the Fall 14 Graduate School Manual release.

New wording of GSM 7.22

7.22. Only graduate-level courses that have not been used as part of a conferred degree are eligible for transfer credit. There is one exception: Transfer of credits that have been used as part of a conferred degree is strictly limited to the 30 or fewer credits from a previously-earned master’s degree that can be applied to a doctoral degree. All transfer courses must have been taken from accredited schools and the student must have earned a grade in those courses that meet the requirements specified in Section 10.11 of this Manual. Transfer from all international institutions, other than those specifically authorized by the Graduate Council, is limited to earned degrees equivalent to US master’s degrees or better.

New wording of the first paragraph of GSM 3.33

3.33. Advanced Standing Credits: Advanced standing refers to credits taken at the University of Rhode Island by a non-matriculating student or by a student in one degree program before formally beginning another program. In instances where a student plans to take a course or courses while in one degree program so as to apply those credits to a more advanced degree at a later date, the student must request and receive written prior approval from the Dean of the Graduate School before enrolling in said course(s). Credits earned at the University of Rhode Island by a non-matriculating student may be applied as advanced standing toward degree requirements only upon the recommendation of the student’s major
professor and the Graduate Program Director and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. To be eligible, these credits must have been earned within a seven-year period before matriculating into the degree program in question and cannot have been used to fulfill any requirement of another degree. The following cases apply:

Council voted to approve the changes for the 2014 Manual with a note of when it was added/approved

VI. Topics for Discussion
A discussion of the policies that apply to the review and awarding of EGRA grants focused on rubrics that could be used by reviewers to rate the proposals. Three versions of the rubrics were submitted by Michael Greenfield and Evelyn Stern with the help of John Stevenson. The three versions were: ‘Unified’ = applicable to both travel requests and non-travel research proposals; ‘Conduct’ = applicable to requests for supplies and/or the conduct of actual research; ‘Dissemination’ = applicable to proposals requesting to travel to meetings to present a research paper or poster. A motion was made and approved to make it clear that the required 3-page EGRA application be written at a level understandable by reviewers who may be outside of the proposer’s area of expertise.

A motion was made to require the inclusion of a faculty supervisor’s letter of recommendation with a student’s EGRA proposal, but that the letter would not be scored during the review process. The motion was approved.

A motion was made to split the ‘Unified’ to conduct and dissemination was approved with 1 opposed.

A motion was made to go back to Unified, but to only consider ‘Conduct’-based proposals instead of ‘Dissemination.’ The motion failed (2 approved, 10 rejected).

It was asked that members of the Council submit comments regarding EGRA proposal scoring to Michael Greenfield.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business
A. The Graduate School was given approval to Purchase TransForm should it pass through state purchasing in time for one time use funding. It is hopeful that it would be able to be implemented for Fall 2015.

B. Michael Greenfield reported that the LOOC committee recognized 6 programs for outstanding work. He will forward the names of those groups.

C. Dean Zawia recognized and thanked Associate Dean Killingbeck at his last Graduate Council meeting before his retirement. He spoke highly of Keith’s
accomplishments and dedication to not only Council but also to the Graduate School.

IX. Adjournment at 3:53PM