Council Members Present: Peter August, Denise Coppa, Michael Greenfield, Robert Laforge, Beth Leonardo, Julia Lovett, Karen McCurdy, Lindsay McLennan, Scott McWilliams, Abran Salazar, Daniel Sheinin, Angela Slitt, Karen Wishner

Not Present: Jacqueline Britto, Kathleen Davis, Marc Hutchison, Elizabeth Kohr, Lubos Thoma,

Others Present: Dean Nasser Zawia, Associate Dean Andrea Rusnock, Megan Yakey, Alycia Mosley Austin, Kristin Johnson, Julie Coiro

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

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 493 were approved with 1 abstention

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia updated Council on the status of the Enhancement of Graduate research Awards. He hopes to have that list finalized by Friday.
B. Dean Zawia recognized the recent additions to the Graduate Faculty

C. Associate Dean Rusnock noted a change to the Dissertation cover sheet that will now show committee member names with the signature lines. While it is not mandatory for this semester, it will be going forward. This will help with signatures that cannot be read to make sure there are no mistakes. The suggestion was made that the name of the dissertation be reiterated on the signature page. We will look into if it becomes a formatting issue to include the title as well.
D. Dean Zawia reminded Council that the Graduate Faculty Summit is to be held on Monday, 14 December 2015 at the Multicultural Center, Hardge Forum. The program will start at 8:30AM. Breakfast will be available at 8AM. A number of crucial topics will be discussed including retention and growing enrollment, TransForm, graduate student mental health, and the Teaching Assistantship Task Force. Our guest speaker will be Kimberly Griffin from the HESI program at the University of Maryland. She is highly recognized for her work with Diversity. We hope to include the agenda on the next event reminder.

IV. Committees
A. Curriculum committee
Changes Approved
CHM618: Surface Analysis

New Courses Approved
CMD586: Multisensory Instruction in Language and Literacy pending Lib Impact Stmt.
EDC661: Language and Thinking in Schools
EDC662: Writing for Presentation and Publication
EDC670: Theory Construction in the Social Sciences
EDC681: Culture and Discourse in Education
EDC682: Discourse Analysis in Education Research
EDC684: The Analysis of Data: A Hands-On Approach
EDC685: Survey Design

Additional Matters
A. Civil and Environmental Engineering asked for a change in their admission requirements to allow students in closely related fields to apply to the program. The motion was approved.
B. Notice of Change: Masters of Arts/Teaching Certification Program in Health, Physical Education, and Health/Physical Education. This will become a track in the MA-TCP. The motion was approved.
C. Request from Joint URI/RIC PhD program to change admission materials. Julie Coiro came in to discuss their request to add a writing sample of a short research study on the topic of their desired area of study. This should help to show what students are capable of doing when they might not be strong on standardized tests. The motion was approved.

V. New Business
A. Change in Graduate School Manual 4.30 Leave of Absence

4.31. Students who must leave the University for a period of one semester or more, whether before or after they have completed the work prescribed in their Program of Study, due to military service, prolonged illness, extraordinary financial hardship, or other unusual circumstances should apply for a Leave of Absence (LOA). A student that requests a Leave of Absence during the semester for which he/she is under contractual obligation to serve as a graduate assistant or during any future semester that he/she is under contractual obligation to serve as a graduate assistant is encouraged to consult with the Graduate School to discuss their rights and the impact of such an LOA on their assistantship. The student will then make the request in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School, accompanied by a Leave of Absence form, carrying the endorsement of the Graduate Program Director. This written petition must be sufficiently specific to enable the Dean to determine whether the leave is warranted. The Dean of the Graduate School or his/her designee
A Leave of Absence, granted under such unusual circumstances, has the effect of suspending time limitations such as those for completion of the degree or for the removal of incomplete grades. Accordingly, a leave will be granted only for sufficient reason and only if it is to be for one year or less. It may be renewed for a maximum of one additional year if circumstances warrant. A request for a Leave of Absence must be submitted to the Graduate School on or before 1 October for fall semester leaves, and on or before 1 March for spring semester leaves. Requests received after the designated dates will not be approved. See Section 4.52 for effects of failure to register or to request a Leave of Absence.

The motion to amend the above wording was approved.

B. Plagiarism, “Text reuse,” ‘Recycling,” and “Text overlap” of Written Work in EGRAs, thesis/dissertation proposals. There was a lot of discussion regarding this topic. It was decided to include strong warning against plagiarism in the year going forward. In the meantime Council will study the topic and bring it back at a later date for further discussion.

C. J-term Graduate Courses was introduced to allow Council time to think about if the shortened J-term classes are enough time to deliver a quality graduate course. Should Graduate J-term courses be vetted through Council?

VII. Old Business

VIII. Adjournment at 4:01 PM