I. Call to order at 2:01 PM by Dean Zawia.

II. Minutes of Meeting Number 496 were approved

III. Announcements

A. Dean Zawia opened a discussion on the speaker for this year’s commencement to be held on 21 May 2016. Richard Tapia was awarded the National Medal of Science in 2011. He is extremely distinguished in his profession and is a national leader in the promotion of women and minorities in STEM disciplines. We will plan a dinner on Friday the 20th and all Council members are welcome.

B. Dean Zawia noted the recent appointments to the Graduate Faculty:
   - GORDAN PAUL BRACKEE CELS 2/11/2016
   - PAULA GRAMMAS NEUROSCIENCE 2/18/2016

C. Julia Lovett discussed typos in Dissertations and Theses. Missing pages and glaring errors are becoming more frequent. A meeting will be set with the formatter to try to find another method to catch mistakes. Julia will look further to see roughly how many errors there are and also to please send the mistakes that they find so that we can see if there are any common mistakes. An email will be sent out to remind students and Faculty to be diligent in their reviews. We will look to see if there is a correlation between international students not working in their native language and mistakes.

IV. Committees
   No Committee topics were identified for this meeting.

V. New Business
   A. URI graduate admissions: ranking of candidates by percentiles in ApplyYourself. Michael Greenfield feels that the current percentile issues
are not a good representation of student scales. A motion was made to change the LOR scale to the Greenfield Scale of: Top 5%, Top 10%, Top 25%, Top 50%, Low 50%. We will also check to see if the percentage as well as ranking can be displayed on the LOR. This change will be implemented in July as we are in the middle of the application season. (See appendix.)

B. Peter August asked to revisit the topic of Outside Member of committees. The importance of having fresh eyes outside of the department is critical for students. Protecting the student is the primary benefit of why the policy is currently in place. Other faculty noted that students would benefit more by having two “inside members” on their committees. Also noted was that CELS, COP, COB, and GSO do not have departments and so finding an “outside member” becomes problematic. Dean Zawia would like to poll the students to find out how they feel about the topic. That at least one outside member is critical and is agreed on by all. Council will speak with their faculty members and GSA will speak with their members. We will reconvene on this topic next meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Michael Greenfield requested last year’s scoring information on Scholarship, Fellowship, and Diversity awards to normalize the scoring results prior to scoring this year’s awards.

B. Karen McCurdy would like to reduce the number of forms needed for students. The Graduate School is currently reviewing all forms to see where we can reduce forms and redundant information.

VII. Adjournment at 3:14 PM
Appendix:

URI Graduate School recommendations request choosing from the following ranks:

Top 2% Outstanding  
Top 5% Excellent  
Top 25% Good  
Top 50% Above Average  
Low 50% Below Average

I suggest that we distinguish less in the minutia of the top 5% and add distinctions within a more broad upper range. For example,

Top 5% Outstanding  
Top 10% Excellent  
Top 25% Good (or Very Good)  
Top 50% Above Average  
Low 50% Below Average

In future admissions seasons, this can provide a ranking level between top 25% and top 5%.

Note that these percentages are only seen when the recommendation is entered; they do not appear on a printout from the ApplyYourself system.