

## GRADUATE COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL REPORT

### September 17, 2015

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#### Background:

On March 22, 2012 the Council for Research presented a revised URI Intellectual Property Policy to the Faculty Senate. It was subsequently adopted by the Faculty Senate, approved by the President, and finally approved by the Rhode Island Board of Governors on April 8, 2013. The revised policy was then incorporated into the University Manual as 10.40.10-10.46.36, replacing the previous 10.40.10-10.44.10. The previous Intellectual Policy contained the following passage:

“10.42.15 Thesis and Dissertation Copyright Ownership. The rights in copyright for theses and dissertations produced as part of a University degree requirement shall belong to the student preparing the material. A student must, as a condition of the award of any degree, grant a royalty-free license or permission to the University and any outside sponsor, if appropriate, to reproduce, publicly distribute on a non-commercial basis, copies of student project reports, theses, or dissertations which would include any software developed as a part of the student project.”

This policy had been the basis by which the University makes available URI theses and dissertations. Printed copies have always been available through the University Libraries; more recently, digital copies are available via the ProQuest Theses & Dissertations Database as well as URI’s institutional repository, DigitalCommons@URI. The new IP Policy does not contain a corresponding section on theses and dissertations.

#### Proposal:

The Graduate Council proposes to the Faculty Senate that the following section from the previous edition of the University Manual be re-instated and re-numbered to 10.44.18:

“**10.44.18** Thesis and Dissertation Copyright Ownership. The rights in copyright for theses and dissertations produced as part of a University degree requirement shall belong to the student preparing the material. A student must, as a condition of the award of any degree, grant a royalty-free license or permission to the University and any outside sponsor, if appropriate, to reproduce, publicly distribute on a non-commercial basis, copies of student project reports, theses, or dissertations which would include any software developed as a part of the student project.”