



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, April 19, 2007

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Ann E. Barr, Daniel J. Canney, James L. Daniel, Jay Fagan, Edward Flanagan, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Deborah Howe (for Mary Myers), James Korsh, G. Augusto Lorenzino, Elizabeth Moran, Wes Roehl, Michael Sachs, Jagbir Singh

Ex-Officio Member:

Aquiles Iglesias, Dean, Graduate School
Zebulon Kendrick, Associate Dean, Graduate School

Graduate School Staff:

Cheryl Jackson, Assistant to the Dean
Kathryn Petrich-LaFevre, Director of Graduate Information
Margaret M. Pippet, Assistant Dean
Michael Toner, Research Associate

Guest:

Wanda Brooks, Assistant Professor of Elementary Education and Reading, Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology in Education, College of Education
Donna Weiss, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, College of Health Professions

Approval of the Minutes:

Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of February 22, 2007. James L. Daniel seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The meeting was opened with a discussion of two proposals for graduate programs: the M.S.Ed. degree with a Concentration in Reading, and the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. It was announced that the Program Review Committee had moved to approve both programs. It was further noted that both the Dean and the Associate Dean had worked closely with the proposal authors to ensure the soundness of the proposed plans. With regard to the Reading M.S.Ed., Wanda Brooks explained that the new degree is aligned with the state regulations for an M.S.Ed. and reading specialist certification. With regard to the D.O.T., Donna Weiss noted that a clinical project serves as its capstone. When the guests were dismissed, a vote was taken on the M.S.Ed. program with a Concentration in Reading. The vote tally was 12 for, 0 against, with 0 abstentions. A vote was also called for on the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. Its count was also 12 for, 0 against, with 0 abstentions.

Following the votes, Associate Dean Kendrick announced that two other program proposals—a Ph.D. in Public Health and the Education Specialist in School Psychology degree—were well along in the writing and revision process and would be reviewed by the Program Review Committee shortly. Upon the Committee's approval, the proposals would then be presented to the Graduate Board at large for consideration. He noted that in order to meet the posted deadlines for submission to the Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee for consideration of new degree

programs to be implemented by the Board of Trustees for Fall 2008, an electronic vote might be required over the summer.

The next order of business was the results of the recent Graduate Board election. The new electronic ballot proved highly successful. A. Marjatta Lyyra (CST) and Michael Sachs (CHP) retain their seats. Also elected were William Aaronson (Fox), Boris Datskovsky (CST), Thomas Gould (CLA), William Hitchcock (CLA), Renee Hobbs (SCT), Dennis Silage (Engg.), Paul Swann (SCT), and Pablo Vila (CLA). Appreciation was extended to exiting members Ann E. Barr (CHP), Kevin J. Delaney (CLA), Richard Hricko (Tyler), Joyce A. Joyce (CLA), G. Augusto Lorenzino (CLA), Roberta A. Newton (CHP), Jagbir Singh (Fox), and Kariamua Welsh (Boyer).

Discussion turned next to requiring theses and dissertations to be reviewed by Turnitin.com for plagiarism. Some members of the Council of Graduate Schools' listserv are beginning to require proof that final theses/dissertations have been submitted to Turnitin.com. The Dean asked if Temple should consider this. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek noted that sophisticated faculty should know the literature that exists in their field. The Associate Dean cautioned that the software will identify mundane sentences as plagiarized. Concern was expressed that the Turnitin.com results might result in dismissal. No further action was called for.

In light of the Virginia Tech shootings three days earlier, the question was raised if a criminal check is or should be part of the application process at Temple. The Dean noted that it is not, that individual departments can choose to require one, and that clinical departments do because their students work with vulnerable populations. He stated that little, however, can be done formally.

The final agenda item was the idea of a waiver of GRE/MAT scores for individuals with a high GPA who have a documented learning disability, test anxiety, or ADHD, as proposed by Michael Sachs. He noted that occasionally students with low scores but a good GPA and certified disability apply. He suggested having those scores waived so as not to skew the mean. Dr. Hirsh-Pasek asked if alternate ways might not exist to compensate for the scores. It was decided to look at 10-year departmental trends, comparing GPAs and GRE/MAT scores at both the master's and doctoral levels.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:45 p.m.