



## Minutes of the Graduate Board

*Thursday, February 22, 2007*

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

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### **Members Present:**

Ann E. Barr, Saroj K. Biswas, Beth Bolton, Daniel J. Canney, James L. Daniel, Kevin J. Delaney, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Edward Flanagan, James Korsh, Jagannathan Krishnan, G. Augusto Lorenzino, Roberta A. Newton, 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

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Dimitrios Diamantaras motioned to approve the minutes of January 17, 2007. Roberta Newton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

### **Business:**

The Dean opened with an update on the status of the NRC survey. He noted that 100% of the program surveys for Temple have been completed. He explained that although the deadline for completion of faculty surveys is not until mid-March, those who complete the survey early have the opportunity to become a rater of programs. He also noted that 80% of faculty participation is required for programs to be rated and strongly recommended that faculty upload their CVs to ensure that all publications are included.

Next, following up on a discussion that was initiated in January, the Dean suggested that the Graduate Board work to establish a leave of absence policy that could be presented to Human Resources to improve that component of the TUGSA contract. He offered the policies of four other institutions as examples. He noted that no policy currently exists at Temple and that leaves are negotiated on a one-by-one basis as the need arises. It was suggested that the faculty policy might be a good starting point, but an important consideration is that graduate student contracts are nine or twelve months in duration, with no carryover from year to year. The Policy Committee is expected to take the lead on this discussion beginning with its March meeting, and every interested member of the Graduate Board was encouraged to attend.

The next topic on the agenda was graduate commencement. Citing the tightness of space in the Liacouras Center each May and the estimated availability of 1.72 tickets per graduate this year, it was proposed to Dean Iglesias that the Graduate School hold a separate commencement from the Undergraduate division. This led the Dean to confer with other graduate deans across the country who advised that many of their institutions do hold separate commencements. He noted, however, that plans at Temple are too advanced this year to move forward with separate ceremonies for 2007, but asked if consideration should be given to the idea for next year. He explained that Temple's

deans viewed the separate ceremony positively, provided sufficient planning was undertaken. Would diploma ceremonies then be unnecessary—and would Graduate Faculty be more inclined to participate? He noted that the doctoral population is not large but that the master's population, particularly in the fields of Social Work and Education, is. Would a separate graduate commencement increase the number of graduates who would attend? A definite benefit would be the highlighting of graduate education at Temple.

The Graduate School announced that it has been collaborating with Computer Services to bring the Graduate Board election process online. The nomination form is expected to be live within the next week. Once the list of nominees is then compiled, the ballot will be made available online for voting purposes.

The last agenda item was the drafting of a strategic plan for the Graduate School. The Dean noted the idea arose in discussions with several of the candidates for Provost. He asked for participation by the Graduate Board, citing the strength of a collaborative effort. The drafting of a strategic plan provides the opportunity to let the Provost know how woefully understaffed some departments are in terms of their faculty and to advise as to just how many doctoral students are not fully funded. Dean Iglesias noted that the mission statement of the Graduate School focuses on the work of the Dean's office, not graduate education itself. He stated that all deans include information on their graduate programs in their strategic plans and suggested that might be a place to start. It was suggested that the Associate Deans might also be a good group to target for information. The Dean will serve as data collector.

Before adjourning, it was asked if an individual must be Graduate Faculty to teach a graduate course. One need not be. A question was also asked about the procedure for fellowships. It was explained that subcommittees review the applications by area. Some committee members know the subject area, while others are less familiar. Their independent scores are then converted to z-scores and rankings are determined for all candidates. The chairs of the subcommittees then meet to discuss. In response to a question about fellowship monies, it was noted that not all Future Faculty Fellows funding was utilized last year as there were not enough applicants meeting the FFF guidelines.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned @ 3:45 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on the Health Sciences Center Campus, in the Executive Conference Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Student Faculty Center, on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, @ 2:30 p.m.