



## Minutes of the Graduate Board

*Wednesday, January 17, 2007*

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

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### **Members Present:**

Ann E. Barr, Daniel L. Canney, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Jay Fagan, Edward Flanagan, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Richard Hricko, Joyce A. Joyce, James Korsh, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Mary Myers, Roberta A. Newton, Wes Roehl

### **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  
Michael Toner, Research Associate

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

Roberta Newton motioned to approve the minutes of November 30, 2006. Kathy Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

### **Business:**

The Dean opened with an update on rankings related to graduate study at Temple. The first was the 2006 NRC assessment of doctorate research programs. Mike Toner noted that the institutional and program surveys had been released and that the faculty survey would be opened the following week. The Dean pointed out that, to date, only four programs had completed the survey: Computer and Information Science, Mathematics, Pharmacology, and Religion. He emphasized that programs that do not complete the survey will not be ranked. The second update regarded the Academic Analytic Rankings of 2005 faculty scholarly productivity. This assessment focuses on publication records. Temple has five programs in the top 10 in their fields: Finance is ranked fourth in its discipline; African American Studies, sixth; Criminal Justice, seventh; Educational Leadership, ninth; and Mass Media and Communications, tenth.

Discussion next turned to international students and their decreasing numbers at Temple. The Dean announced that over the course of the past month, the decision was made to dispense with the earlier deadline for international students. Applications for all students are now due to the departments on the established program date. The elimination of the earlier international deadline was done despite research demonstrating that many of our peer institutions continue to require or have recently instituted an earlier deadline for international students. James Korsh suggested that the burden could be decreased further if credential reviews were performed after departmental review of international applications. Mary Myers offered that a survey of applicants who are accepted but do not enroll at Temple would be helpful. Marjatta Lyyra noted that recruiting at the departmental level should be strengthened. Roberta Newton inquired if recruitment is done at non-U.S. institutions. It is, but only on a very small scale, as through faculty-to-faculty contact. The

Dean pointed out that part of the problem is external as well, given that international students now have more options, such as attending institutions in Australia.

The next item was an update about certificates at the graduate level. Some members of a university-wide committee reviewing materials to be transcribed want certificates to be listed. Often, graduate certificates at Temple require a minimal level of coursework, typically only 12 credits. At present, only two certificates are transcribed: disability studies and women's studies. The committee is continuing its work, with rollout of transcript changes expected in Fall 2008.

TA reallocation was next on the agenda. The Dean explained that, as discussed at the previous meeting, a draft proposal was prepared and forwarded to President Hart. She acknowledged its receipt, but requested that the Dean work with and through the Provost's Office. Dean Iglesias noted that Interim Provost Dick Englert had taken the matter under advisement and was to report back to schools and colleges with news of their TA allocations by Friday. The Dean expressed doubt that extra funding would be provided to cover the new GenEd courses. He further noted that President Hart had personally visited the Graduate School to meet with him to discuss graduate education at Temple.

Discussion next focused on three proposed topics:

- Early credentialing and its harmful effects on prospective students. This item was tabled until such time when the College of Science and Technology and the Department of Computer and Information Science could prepare a presentation.
- Perceptions of the online graduate application. With regard to this, the Dean acknowledged that the application is not perfect and that the use of the "Apply Yourself" system has been under review. Its cost, however, is approximately \$100,000 a year. The funding for this must be found in the Provost's portfolio.
- Changing fellowship standards to guarantee awards for departments. This item was tabled for recall in the future.

### **New Business:**

Dr. Lyyra questioned why the TUGSA agreement does not provide for maternity leave for assistants. The Dean recalled that it had been mentioned during negotiations but that the final contract did not address the issue.

Kathy Hirsh-Pasek noted that some universities offer a grant review service to its faculty and graduate students. A team reviews grant drafts and rewrites them within days. This action has resulted in increased funding at the institutions. It was pointed out that Temple's College of Health Professions employs such an individual and that the Graduate School has assisted Fulbright-Hays candidates and select others with grant review. The Dean suggested that Ken Soprano, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, be contacted with the request for a grant review service university-wide.

Dr. Hirsh-Pasek inquired where Temple stands in relation to its aspirant schools with regard to assistantships. Ann Barr pointed out that research funding is getting harder to win because NIH is looking to fund only new laboratories and old labs that are in danger of closing. Thus, anyone in between must find alternate sources of support, which translates into less available funding for

assistants. It was suggested that perhaps the University's 16 accounts, which are overhead return monies, could provide the necessary funding. The Dean further recommended that Temple should apply for more training grants.

Jay Fagan raised the question of assistants working over semester break. Are RAs to work when TAs obviously have no classroom commitment? The Dean noted that this typically is left to the discretion of the department. Dr. Barr asked about "academic benefit" and a student's need to join TUGSA. Dean Iglesias promised to send the electronic version of the TUGSA contract to the Graduate Board.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned @ 3:50 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, February 22, 2007, @ 2:30 p.m.