

Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, January 21, 2010

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Elizabeth Bolman, Daniel J. Canney, Joseph DuCette, Jay Fagan, Thomas Gould, Michael Hagen, Renee Hobbs, Barbara Hoffman, Deborah Howe, Richard H. Immerman, Luke Kahlich, Daniel Kern, James Korsh, Jagannathan Krishnan, Dan A. Liebermann, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Wes Roehl, Jeffrey Rush, Deborah Sheldon, Dennis Silage, Paul Swann

Ex-Officio Member:

Richard M. Englert, Interim 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

Guests:

Elizabeth Barber, School of Tourism and Hospitality Management
Rajan Chandran, Fox School of Business and Management
David Ryan, Department of Accounting
John Shank, Department of Therapeutic Recreation

Approval of the Minutes:

Barbara Hoffman motioned to approve the minutes of November 18, 2009. Thomas Gould seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

Presentations of three proposed graduate programs constituted the first order of business:

- John Shank spoke about the Master of Science in Recreation Therapy. This master's degree prepares the student for evidence-based practice. It culminates with a clinical practicum, as opposed to a comprehensive examination.
- Elizabeth Barber highlighted the Executive Master in Tourism and Hospitality Management. She noted that the degree is for those working in the tourism and hospitality management field in an international forum. The program has a partner in Singapore. It is intended to compete with like programs at Cornell University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It is designed with 10 courses to be taught in five-day modules over 12 months.
- Rajan Chandran and David Ryan represented the Master of Accountancy. Changes in Pennsylvania state law have increased the minimum number of credits earned to sit for the CPA exam from 120 to 150; 36 of those credits must be in accounting, finance, or the like. The Master of Accountancy is intended to fill the credit void for those in need of the 30 additional credits.

No vote was taken. Instead, the Associate Dean asked that members notify him of any questions and concerns by the following Monday. The Program Committee would then take the proposals under advisement and decide by Wednesday whether to move the proposals forward. It was

expected that an electronic vote would then be called for in an effort to send the proposals forward to the Board of Trustees.

The next order of business was fellowships. As the deadline for the fellowship competition looms, the Associate Dean noted the five subcommittees: Arts; Business, Education, and Health Professions; Humanities; Sciences; and Social Sciences. Ad hoc members with expertise in the field will be asked by the Deans to serve on the subcommittees this year, as done in the 1980s and 1990s. The ratio of Graduate Board members to other experts from within the University is expected to be 5:3. Concern was raised about identifying the reviewers either by name or discipline. Another member offered that it would be unnecessary as a reviewer's level of expertise could be determined by the Graduate School if outliers were found among the results. The Associate Dean stated that such information would be provided to the Fellowship Committee, if deemed appropriate.

When one Board member suggested that each department with students meeting minimum standards be promised fellowships, the Associate Dean advised that only about 40 fellowships are available for more than 80 programs. Further, if a student in a department rejects Temple's offer, that department cannot offer a fellowship to another student of similar caliber because the University already extends more offers than it expects to be accepted. Another Board member expressed concern about feeling inadequate to rank the fellowship nominees, not having expertise in the assigned subcommittee area. She stated that she adheres to the rankings provided by the departments.

The Associate Dean noted that the fellowship is viewed by the Graduate School as a partnership between the department and the student. While funds are guaranteed for the first two years, he proposed that departments with sufficient external funds commit to funding their students in year 2 in addition to years 3 and 4. He pointed out that this would increase the number of students on fellowship. He noted that the Board would take this matter under further advisement. It would also consider rotation of fellowships, with the hopes of guaranteeing programs a fellowship every two years.

In new business, the Associate Dean noted that he and Teresa Stewart from Internal Affairs are planning to interview 102 randomly chosen Teaching and Research Assistants. This is part of the periodic review process for the Graduate School.

In old business, the Interim Dean noted that offsite interviews for the Senior Vice Provost for Research Administration and Graduate Education position will be conducted prior to onsite interviews. He has advised the appropriate parties that the Graduate Board would like to meet with the candidates. Finally, concern was raised that credentialing procedures are hurting the College of Science and Technology. The Associate Dean advised that the matter is under review, cautioning that much false information is circulating in this regard.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 4:20 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, @ 2:30 p.m.