



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, January 22, 2009

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Daniel J. Canney, Boris Datskovsky, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Jay Fagan, Edward Flanagan, Thomas Gould, Marcia Hall, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Barbara Hoffman, Deborah Howe, Dan A. Liebermann, Roberta Newton, Wes Roehl, Jeff Rush, Michael Sachs, Deborah Sheldon, Dennis Silage, Pablo Vila

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
Margaret M. Pippet, Assistant Dean
Michael Toner, Research Associate

Guests:

Brian Goldstein, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Priscilla Murphy, Department of Strategic and Organizational Communication

Approval of the Minutes:

Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of November 19, 2008. Dimitrios Diamantaras seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Interim Dean opened the meeting by announcing that the Associate Dean would have responsibility for chairing Graduate Board meetings. He then noted that he wanted to address a question he has been asked repeatedly: Is a search to be conducted for Dean of the Graduate School? Dr. Englert cited two reasons for not conducting a search at this time:

- Bob Zemsky has been hired to assess the restructuring of the Graduate School. It would be premature to engage in a dean search before the analysis is even initiated.
- As noted in the Provost's January 16 letter to the faculty, a \$40 million cost reduction is underway in the University. Filling an administrative position is not a priority, given the Provost's desire to preserve the hiring of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

The Graduate Board was informed about the convening of a special Graduate Board meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. The membership will meet with Bob Zemsky, who will be on campus Tuesday and Wednesday, February 3 and 4. The members were advised that, during those two days, the consultant will also be meeting with a select group of Graduate School staff (i.e., Zebulon Kendrick, Margaret Pippet, and Michael Toner); the Associate Deans involved with graduate education; university budget people; and the Council of Deans.

The next order of business was the approval of two restructured academic programs. Brian Goldstein spoke about the M.A. in Speech, Language and Hearing. He noted that changes in accreditation standards and changes in the scope of practice led the department to increase the number of credits from 36 to 39. Priscilla Murphy addressed the changes in the M.S. in Communication Management. She noted that after 5 years of offering the degree program, it was decided to reduce the number of credits from 40 to 36 to make it a true two-year program. Upon the visitors' departure, the Graduate Board voted whether to approve the programs as restructured:

- With regard to the M.A. in Speech, Language and Hearing, William Aaronson motioned to approve and Michael Sachs seconded the motion. The vote was 17 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.
- As for the M.S. in Communication Management, Michael Sachs motioned to approve and Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion. The vote was 17 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Next, the Graduate Board was presented with a memo advising of a new practice regarding the funding of tuition remission for Research Assistants on externally sponsored projects. Effective January 1, 2009, tuition remission will only be provided to RAs on grants that provide 50% overhead return to the University. The new policy is in response to a growing financial problem: in the 2007-2008 academic year, the account supporting tuition remission was overextended by about \$400,000, and the expected overage in the current academic year is expected to reach \$600,000. Several concerns were raised:

- Sufficient grant funds should be coming in to the University to cover tuition remission for those on grants paying only 38% or 26% overhead return.
- If tuition remission funds are unavailable for graduate students, then it is less costly to simply hire someone to offer research support.
- Some funders will not offer monies if students are not being supported.

The Interim Dean noted that it is important to find a long-term solution to the tuition remission overages, pointing out that limited funding must be spent most effectively. One Board member suggested that an internal task force look at the problem, while another observed that the University appears to clandestinely be getting out of the business of graduate education. Another member asked how many overhead dollars the University received last year, and someone else exclaimed that it was irresponsible to be concerned only with the amount of overhead return and not with the size of the grant itself. Following its passionate discussion, the Graduate Board proposed the following: An ad-hoc committee will assemble to discuss and prepare a report to the full Graduate Board on funding tuition remission for Research Assistants. Michael Sachs motioned to approve and Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. The vote was 18 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining. The Associate Dean suggested that individuals interested in serving email him about their interest.

Finally, the Associate Dean noted that the timetable for fellowships was included in the Board's materials since the deadlines are rapidly approaching.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:55 p.m.

A special session of the Graduate Board is to convene on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, @ 2:30 p.m. The next regular Graduate Board meeting is scheduled for Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, @ 2:30 p.m.