



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Saroj K. Biswas, Daniel J. Canney, Boris Datskovsky, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Edward Flanagan, Thomas Gould, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, William Hitchcock, Renee Hobbs, Barbara Hoffman, Jagannathan Krishnan, Dan A. Liebermann, Sharyn O'Mara (for Elizabeth Bolman), Michael Sachs, Dennis Silage, Donna Snow, Paul Swann, Pablo Vila

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:

Lisa Staiano-Coico, Provost

Approval of the Minutes:

Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of April 19, 2007. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The inaugural meeting of the Graduate Board for the 2007-2008 academic year opened with introductions of all those in attendance. For the edification of new members, the Dean explained that the Board does not have a chair but that he, or the Associate Dean when he is unable to attend, serves as facilitator.

Among the introductions was the presentation of the new Provost, Lisa Staiano-Coico. Topics relevant to graduate education were discussed. Chief among these was the prospect of interdisciplinary study, e.g., art history candidates might take business courses to better prepare themselves for museum curatorship or theater candidates might study a foreign language and art history to deliver a well-rounded performance. Time to completion of degree was also raised as an issue with a call to better track students to determine where they are in their program. The Provost pointed out that the Postdoctoral Fellows Office has been moved to the Graduate School, given that it serves trainees furthering their education. She also noted that she has called for all schools and colleges to prepare a strategic plan that details academic, financial, and fundraising planning. She expressed her enthusiasm for the “new day” that is dawning at Temple with its attractive advertising campaign. Finally, in discussing the search for a Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, she explained that the successful candidate will be expected to act as a liaison with foundations, businesses, and the state and federal governments to ensure that Temple remains competitive for funding.

An update was next provided on the Graduate School's adoption of ApplyYourself as its new application system. It was announced that the contract has been signed and that the first element of the system to be designed is the prospective student database, which will allow for communication and invitation to events. Fox School of Business and Management has been using the system for two years and has worked with AY to iron out problems. The goal in utilizing the AY system is to target audiences to increase the number of applications.

The Dean was asked if a recruitment budget exists. He responded that the Graduate School funds major web and print advertising with such agencies as Peterson's and also has a recruiter who travels nationally to promote Temple. It was observed that national rankings of departments and programs are important for recruitment. This led to a discussion of strategies utilized by the various schools and colleges to promote their programs: postcards highlighting awards; electronic newsletters and emails; parties hosted at national conferences; annual recruitment letters; acknowledgement correspondence sent to undergraduate institutions whose students arrive well prepared for graduate study; and acknowledgment of recommendations sent by prospective students' referees. It was suggested that the image of graduate education at Temple needs to be improved and that the place to begin should be our own media relations department. The Dean then suggested that Mark Eyerly, Associate Vice President of Communications, be invited to the October meeting of the Graduate Board so that he might learn about the impact of graduate education and the graduate faculty's activities.

The four standing committees of the Graduate Board were outlined. The Appeals Committee is expected to hear an appeal or two in the next month. The Fellowship Committee will review the applications for Doctoral Dissertation and Terminal Master's Project Completion Grants in the next month. The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet within the week to discuss strategic planning and summer work, which is critical to readying documents for Board of Trustee review in September to avoid a two-year delay in implementing changes. And the Program Review Committee is to consider restructuring in Political Science and other programmatic changes.

The Associate Dean discussed the need for the Graduate Board to review changes in an array of courses with no change in the total credits for a graduate program. He noted that currently the Board of Trustees needs to approve any change in a graduate program, including the array of courses. He also expressed hope that in the future a change in the array of courses can be made at the level of the Provost. If so, there needs to be a formal review by the Graduate Board. Agreement was expressed by the Graduate Board that streamlining the process of change should be supported. It was, therefore, proposed that changes in array of graduate courses that do not alter the total number of credits for a graduate degree be reviewed by the Program Review Committee and reported to the Graduate Board as a whole for notification purposes only. Michael Sachs moved; Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The topic of Strategic Planning led to a discussion of the challenges facing principal investigators hiring postdoctoral fellows. The Dean noted that the policy concerning postdoctoral fellows was under review and he would report to the Graduate Board about suggested changes in the policy when they become available.

In other business, the move to electronic dissertations was noted. Copyright issues were previously problematic, but the Graduate School is negotiating a resolution with Paley Library staff. And the possibility of signing a 3+2 agreement with Taiwan is on the horizon. Students would spend three years in Taiwan as undergraduates and then two years at Temple earning their master's degree.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 4:15 p.m.