

Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, September 20, 2012

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Kurosh Darvish, Jeffrey Draine, Petra Goedde, Marcia Hall (for Elizabeth Bolman), Sally Harrison, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Jagannathan Krishnan, George Myer, Mary Myers, Swati Nagar, Paul A. Pavlou, Vallorie J. Peridier, Peter S. Riseborough, Michael Ryan, Michael Sachs, Deborah Sheldon, Justin Yuan Shi, Scott Sieburth, Sandra Suarez, Paul Swann, Douglas Wager

Ex-Officio Member:

Zebulon Kendrick, Vice Provost, Graduate School

Graduate School Staff:

Cheryl Jackson, Administrative Coordinator

Kathryn Petrich-LaFevre, Director of Graduate Information

Michael Toner, Associate Director for Graduate Enrollment and Data Management

Approval of the Minutes:

Swati Nagar motioned to approve the minutes of April 25, 2012. Petra Goedde seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The inaugural meeting of the Graduate Board for the 2012-2013 academic year opened with a round of introductions. Most new members and many returning members were present.

The first order of business was an introduction to the PTE Academic Test. Lesley Underwood was present to discuss this test of English literacy, which is offered by Pearson. She noted that the PTE launched in 2009. This three-hour computer-based test is divided into four parts: Introduction, Speaking and Writing, Reading, and Listening. It tests various English accents using tasks drawn from real life, such as reordering paragraphs as well as listening to a lecture to provide a synopsis. Ms. Underwood stressed that security is high to ensure that the test taker is the true individual. Scores are readied and sent quickly, usually within two to five days, and are valid for two years. Information on the PTE Academic Test was offered as an addition to the currently accepted TOEFL and IELTS.

The Vice Provost touched on two items before turning to the printed agenda. He noted:

- The Survey of Earned Doctorates is required to be completed by those newly conferred with a doctoral degree. In 2010, Temple University had 170 graduates. Responses indicate that over 70% graduating with their doctorate had accrued \$30,000 of debt or less.
- The final number of new graduate students awarded fellowships who enrolled in Fall 2012 is 32. The Vice Provost would like to be able to support 50 new fellowship students annually. He noted that this is possible if the Graduate School provides funding in the first and fourth years of a student's program, with only six credits provided in the fourth year. Depending on program length, MFAs would be supported one and one or 1.5 and 1.5. (Extended discussion followed, as detailed below.)

In returning to the agenda, the restructuring of the M.B.A. was described. William Aaronson explained that three distinctive M.B.A. programs currently exist at Fox School of Business and Management, including a 48-credit Executive M.B.A.; a 51-credit International M.B.A. that entails one semester each in Paris, Philadelphia, and an Asian city; and a 54-credit M.B.A. that is a two-year traditional program, a part-time professional program, or an online program. With the restructuring, the three M.B.A. programs would be merged into one, with variable credits of 48-54. This revision allows for customization of the M.B.A., particularly as regards experiential elements/requirements. The Vice Provost noted that the intent was to move the proposal through to have it ready for inclusion on the December agenda of the Board of Trustees. First, the Program Committee would consider the proposal and then it would be presented to the full Graduate Board for a vote. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek motioned that the Graduate Board authorize an electronic vote on the proposal for restructuring the M.B.A. Jasim Albandar seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Vice Provost next addressed the representation of schools and colleges on the Graduate Board. He noted that, despite best efforts, with the reorganization of various schools and colleges over the past several years, representation has become hazy. Each school/college is to have one representative at a minimum, with a maximum of five, for a total membership of 30. The Policy Committee is appointed with reviewing the membership distribution on the Graduate Board.

The Vice Provost moved to fellowship tuition remission. He cited data reported by the various doctoral programs at Temple on:

- Total credits required for the doctoral degree
- Years of funding available to full-time students
- If applicants are accepted directly from the baccalaureate
- If applicants are only accepted with a master's degree
- Total credits required beyond the master's degree
- Total advanced standing credits accepted from the master's
- Total advanced standing credits accepted from a Temple University master's degree

Based on this information, the Vice Provost demonstrated that the Graduate School could reduce the number of credits it funds by providing support in the first and fourth years of a fellow's program. He noted that this funding schedule would promote student participation in a research program sooner. He suggested rollout of the revised funding schedule in the 2013-2014 academic year, with departmental funding not being affected until 2014-2015. Further discussion on the topic is slated for the October meeting, with a decision needed by December.

In old business, the Vice Provost noted that the issue of devolving authority for terminal master's/professional master's and professional doctoral programs, as posed in the Provost's Report of March 15, 2012 to the Faculty on Proposals for Restructuring the Provost's Portfolio, is on hold until the new hierarchy, i.e., President and Provost, is in place. The matter will then be discussed with the new leadership.

In new business, the Vice Provost stated that the Leave of Absence (LOA) policy was written for undergraduates only. Jodi Levine Laufgraben, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment, is working to incorporate language relevant to graduate students. Dr. Kendrick directed the Graduate Board members to the LOA policy handout, which included the draft of a paragraph to replace the paragraph about a student's readmission to a program following LOA. He noted that up to four semesters of LOA are available to graduate students, although the LOA does not stop the

clock on time to degree. Michael Sachs motioned that the final draft of the revised paragraph for the LOA policy document be presented to the Graduate Board for an electronic vote. Paul Swann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 4:10 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on the Health Sciences Center Campus, in the Executive Conference Room on the 4th floor of the Student Faculty Center, on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, @ 2:30 p.m.