



Graduate Board Minutes

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Barrie Ashby, Ann E. Barr, Kevin J. Delaney, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Judith Litvin, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Roberta A. Newton, Michael Sachs, Kariamuw Welsh

Ex-Officio Member:

Aquiles Iglesias, Dean, Graduate School
Zebulon Kendrick, Associate Dean, Graduate School

Graduate School Staff:

Kathryn Petrich-LaFevre, Senior Editor

Approval of the Minutes:

Roberta Newton motioned to approve the minutes of April 21, 2004. Judith Litvin seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

The Dean noted that the new Graduate School website, which is presently under construction, will make the Graduate Board meeting minutes available. In addition, all Graduate Faculty will receive the minutes via email.

Business:

Dean Iglesias welcomed the Graduate Board to a new academic year. He began with the introduction of Zebulon Kendrick as Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Kendrick's responsibilities include working with the Graduate Board committees and preparing for the National Research Council's review of Temple's doctoral programs in selected disciplines.

Associate Dean Kendrick talked briefly about the four standing committees of the Graduate Board. He noted that although all Board members have been assigned to one committee and one Fellowship subcommittee, they are welcome to attend any committee meeting(s) of their choice. The *Appeals Committee* reviews requests for extension of time, leave of absence, and the like. The *Fellowship Committee* anticipates its busy season in February. The first round of fellowship nominations are due February 11, 2005, and the second round on March 1, 2005. The subcommittees were established with members from the particular discipline, if possible. The chair, however, is intentionally drawn from another discipline. The *Policy Committee* has as its charge to review and update the 1984 bylaws of the Graduate School and review the policies and procedures of the Graduate Board. The *Program Review Committee* has several reviews upcoming, including one for Pharmacodynamics. In addition, Dean Iglesias noted that he would be asking the Program Review Committee to determine what level of change the Board would like him to bring to its attention. Dr. Iglesias explained that it is university policy that any

change affecting the transcript, such as course renumbering, degree change, or a change in name, needs to go through an approval process. The committee will determine what specific types of changes will require the Board's deliberation and which will be left to the Dean.

Dean Iglesias moved to the subject of Graduate Faculty criteria, which are required of all schools, colleges, and departments in light of the policy passed by the Graduate Board last year. A menu of suggested criteria was forwarded to the Deans of all schools and colleges in May to assist them in writing their own. Dr. Iglesias noted that the menu is broad in scope in order to include those who are actively involved in research and creative work. Ultimately, the school, college, or department will determine who makes the grade as Graduate Faculty based on the criteria approved for that school/college/department. The question was raised as to what happens to an individual who is currently a member of a dissertation or thesis committee who no longer meets the criteria for Graduate Faculty. While this was left for later discussion, the Dean noted that some level of flexibility must be maintained in order to accommodate transition time. Exception was voiced with regard to the stipulation of numbers on the criteria as opposed to language such as "substantial," "productive," or "seminal." The matter of Graduate Faculty criteria will be presented at the meeting of the Associate Deans on Wednesday, September 29, to reiterate the importance of each school, college, and department setting its own criteria.

Two potential changes to the admissions requirements for graduate study were raised. First, the Dean of the Graduate School can grant an admissions exception if the student achieved a 3.25 cumulative grade point average in at least 9 credits of graduate work at an accredited university in the United States or equivalent academic performance in a university outside the United States. The Dean proposed that the Board consider raising the required Graduate GPA to 3.5 in light of the fact that the average GGPA of graduate students at Temple is 3.69. The Policy Committee of the Graduate Board will take this under advisement.

Second, Temple graduate programs that require a standardized examination presently do not specify a minimum score for admission. Although considered, this requirement was not added last academic year because it was viewed as resulting in too much change when the minimum GPA was raised to 3.0. For the GRE, the minimum desired level is a combined score of 100%, with a minimum of 35% on either the verbal or quantitative test. The question was raised as to whether the GRE is a true indicator of student performance—and, if so, if it is such across the board. It was suggested that different requirements might be needed for different departments and that some test scores might be more applicable on the doctoral level because those degrees are more research based as opposed to the more practical-based master's degrees. The Dean also noted that the best predictor might be the analytical writing test. It was also recommended that it might be beneficial to check the relationship between students' GRE scores and their performance in class, and, finally, that a sliding scale for standardized test scores might balance a higher Undergraduate GPA.

Dean Iglesias addressed the need for an Academic Plan, citing the example of the University of Connecticut. The Academic Plan would set goals and objectives for graduate education at Temple. Recommendations from the Graduate Board could be used by the deans to establish a strategic plan for their individual schools and colleges. One suggestion was to include the compilation of data on national competitions. For example, last year Temple had 5 finalists for

the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program, which is sponsored annually by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. This is greater than the number at Penn State (2), equal to the number at the University of Pennsylvania, but fewer than those at the University of Michigan (24). Another suggestion was the availability of travel awards.

The Dean next broached the subject of program size. He noted that at Temple few departments limit the number of students admitted. As a result, some departments have too many students for the available resources. The adequate size needs to be determined based on the departmental resources. Further discussion will be taken up by the Graduate Board committees.

Dean Iglesias pointed out that recruitment efforts are moving ahead. The Graduate School is strategically selecting sites to visit. Letters are then sent out by the Graduate School to attendees. It then becomes the responsibility of the schools and colleges to follow up with potential applicants.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:55 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, October 21, 2004, @ 2:30 p.m.