



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Daniel J. Canney, Joseph DuCette, Jay Fagan, Petra Goedde, Marcia Hall, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Barbara Hoffman, Richard H. Immerman, James Korsh, Jagannathan Krishnan, Dan A. Liebermann, Vallorie Peridier, Peter Riseborough, Wes Roehl, Justin Yuan Shi

Ex-Officio Member:

Kenneth J. Blank, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education
Zebulon Kendrick, Associate Dean, Graduate School

Graduate School Staff:

Cheryl Jackson, Assistant to the Dean
Kathryn Petrich-LaFevre, Director of Graduate Information
Michael Toner, Associate Director for Graduate Enrollment and Data Management

Approval of the Minutes:

Dan Liebermann motioned to approve the minutes of March 25, 2010. Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Approval of the minutes for the April 28, 2010 meeting of the Graduate Faculty was tabled until the next meeting of the Graduate Board.

Business:

The Associate Dean opened the meeting welcoming both new and returning members of the Graduate Board. He then introduced Kenneth Blank, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education. Dr. Blank noted that since coming to Temple in May 2010, he has been meeting with the various schools and colleges in an effort to get to know all faculty.

The first order of business was fellowships:

- Proposed Stipends for 2011-2012 – Noting that the current level of funding is not competitive, the Associate Dean expressed intent to increase stipends for the 2011-2012 academic year. He also informed the Board that funding is to begin with the first day of the semester and end with the last day, rather than be provided on a fiscal-year schedule.
- Guaranteed Level Funding – The Associate Dean presented the Board with a stipend schedule designed to ensure level funding for fellows during the years they are supported by their departments. One Board member expressed concern that fellowship funding ends after four years, while Ivy League schools offer five or six years of funding. The Associate Dean noted that faculty grants offer a viable option for increasing funding. If this type of grant is used to fund Student A in years 2 through 4, then Student B can be brought in and funded with Student A's year 2 university funding, provided the department agrees to provide

funding for Student B in years 2 through 4. Alternatively, Student C could receive a fifth year of funding through Student A's second year of university funding. The agreement could be readily made via a "Memo of Understanding" between the school/college and the Graduate School.

- Completion Grants – Research into Dissertation and Project Completion Grants revealed that only a small percentage of the awardees are completing their dissertations and projects during the semester that funding is provided. The Associate Dean asked if these funds would be better spent on fellowships, given that doctoral awardees receive \$8,000 for the completion grant and M.F.A. candidates receive \$4,500 for the semester. In the ensuing discussion, one Board member noted that Dissertation and Project Completion Grants are valuable to students because they provide funding that students need to finish their work without distraction. He suggested that the decision process may be to blame and recommended that support from the department is vital to ensure that students finish in the allotted semester's time.
- First Summers Research Initiative Award – The Associate Dean announced a new award to be offered by the Graduate School, which is designed to encourage doctoral students to become research-active in the first, second, and/or third summers of their graduate studies. This led him to suggest that the Fellowship Committee, one of the four standing committees of the Graduate Board, be divided into two Fellowship Subcommittees with all Board members serving on one of the two subcommittees. One would consider the Presidential, University, and Future Faculty Fellowships, while the other would have responsibility for the Dissertation and Project Completion Grants and the First Summers Research Initiative Awards.

Board Response:

Discussion ensued about fellowships in general. One member reiterated his view that fellowships should rotate through departments regardless of the strength of the candidates' credentials. Another voiced his preference for a fellowship award to remain with a department, even if the prospect who initially received the offer decided to not matriculate at Temple. A third called for a breakdown of fellowships as awarded by department. The Associate Dean responded that with funding for only some 50 candidates, awards earmarked for departments would lead to the exclusion of some of the strongest candidates. The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education noted that it was incumbent upon him to lobby for an increase in both the number of fellowships and the amount of support for each. Finally, a fourth Board member suggested that fellowships be viewed as a feeder system, i.e., as an "investment" in graduate education. She noted that funds bring in better candidates, which in turn leads to more grant monies, which in its turn leads to still more students enrolling.

The WES iGATM calculator was next on the agenda. The Associate Dean noted that software to be used for calculating GPAs for international students is being purchased for each dean's office. He stated that the calculator is intended to help departments ferret out those individuals with low GPAs who are not of interest to the department. It is not designed to replace the credentialing process since part of that process is to determine if the documents are falsified, but it should reduce the time frame since candidates with low GPAs who would not gain admission would not need to have their documents further reviewed by the Graduate School. The Associate Dean further warned that

GPA's calculated in the schools and colleges would be spot-checked for accuracy; if found to be wrong, the software would be surrendered to WES.

Fall 2010 admission data was presented to the Board. One Board member questioned the selectivity of some schools and colleges, noting that several accepted 50% and more of their applicants. She suggested that the numbers be broken down further to determine which departments are not being selective. The "Other" category was questioned; if not accepted or denied, an application is listed under "Other." The Associate Dean noted that sometimes applications are incomplete and sometimes complete applications are left languishing by departments. He stated that if an application is not worth consideration, it should be rejected early. Another Board member expressed concern that his department experienced a long delay in decision letters being mailed out last year. The Associate Dean, noting that the bottleneck had to have occurred in the department, emphasized that the Graduate School adheres to a 24-hour turnaround in processing all decision letters. The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education observed that better communication needs to take place in the schools and colleges with regard to the status of decisions.

The next topic was the relationship between indirect costs and tuition remission. The Associate Dean noted that the University is paying out far more in tuition remission than it is taking in in indirect costs. For the 2009-2010 academic year, the difference between the two was almost \$800,000. The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education suggested determining minimum grant amounts to provide tuition and renegotiating indirect costs. One Board member suggested a grid that scales for equity between the amount of the grant and the amount of indirect overhead return. Dr. Blank stated that negotiation is better than a grid. Another Board member asked if it isn't better to have some grant money to cover tuition than no grant money at all. Dr. Blank noted that it is never good to not apply for a grant, but that negotiation should yield 1/3 for the principal investigator, 1/3 for the school or college, and 1/3 for research administration.

The Associate Dean announced that the NRC report was looming, embargoed until Tuesday, September 28, 2010. He noted that the data – for 2005-2006 – were received, but that the data would be presented first to the deans, who would then disseminate it. The data received is for peer, not aspirant, institutions.

Noting that recommendation letters cannot be uploaded into the Banner application system, the Associate Dean advised that the Graduate School is looking for a remedy that could be used until uploads are permitted in Banner. Having just met with representatives from ETS, he provided the Board with information about ETS's Personal Potential Index (PPI). Any student registering for the GRE can list faculty contacts for recommendations. ETS would then send the report to the Graduate School for forwarding to the department. Four institutions could be sent the reports at no additional cost to the student; each additional school would cost the student \$20. An ETS webinar on the PPI will be presented on November 18, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. A Board member responded by inquiring if Interfolio can be used. Michael Toner stated that he would look into it to determine its fit with Banner.

No old business was raised.

In new business, the Associate Dean announced that the Graduate School is preparing to host the Second Annual Graduate Fellows Research Symposium on Saturday, October 2, 2010. He invited the Board members to be faculty discussants for the fellows' research. The event closes at 6:30 p.m.

at Tyler School of Art with art clinics, light fare, and the music of a jazz trio. The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education noted that he looked forward to engaging in strategic discussion with the Graduate Board and asked that any agenda items to be discussed be sent to the Associate Dean. Finally, a Board member inquired about the Academic Compass, the strategic 5-year plan for Temple. He was advised that the document is being updated to make it more user friendly.

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 Thursday, October 21, 2010, @ 2:30 p.m.