



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Elizabeth Bolman, Petra Goedde, Sally Harrison, Michael Maynard, Mary Myers, Swati Nagar, Paul A. Pavlou, Vallorie J. Peridier, Peter S. Riseborough, Michael Sachs, Deborah Sheldon, Scott Sieburth, Dennis Silage, Sandra Suárez

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:

Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of March 21, 2013. Michael Maynard seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Vice Provost began with funding updates. With regard to fellowships, 93 offers were extended. To date, 49 have been accepted; 30 have been declined; and 14 responses are still awaited. It was noted that the offers were fairly evenly spread across disciplines. With regard to the First Summers Research Initiative, 36 awards were made. The monies that remained were utilized to fund unfunded dissertation and project completion grants for Fall 2013.

Electronic dissertations and theses constituted the next order of business. The Vice Provost observed that requests to quarantine these works have been increasing recently. Such requests have been made for both new works and those that are already available electronically. He noted that Temple University has never allowed permanent embargoes, choosing instead to always make dissertations and theses available in the public domain. Temporary embargoes were granted only on rare occasion to prevent patentable discoveries from prematurely being released. He reported that it is rare for a dissertation to be published as completed and that having these documents available in the public domain does not constitute an issue for academic presses.

Board Response:

One Board member noted that dissertations are meant to be in the public domain immediately. Another stated that there is no reason to embargo a dissertation because sensitive material, such as drug discovery, should not be part of the dissertation. A third offered that an embargo should be allowed for a short time, if needed. A fourth explained that she had sought a permanent embargo for her dissertation for religious reasons because such information in the public domain might have prevented success in her career. Finally, it was suggested that faculty clarify any student's request for an embargo and that clear language be utilized when an embargo is granted.

The Vice Provost concluded that permission to embargo is to be granted only in rare instances and only by the Graduate School.

The Vice Provost turned to the topic of the annual meeting of the Graduate Faculty. He stated that no policy changes occurred in the past academic year. Given that the Graduate Faculty have no issues on which to vote, he suggested that, in lieu of the meeting, a summary report drawn from the Graduate Board minutes for 2012-13 be provided to the Graduate Faculty via email. The Graduate Board agreed and decided to forgo the May 7 meeting.

No old business was raised. Neither was any new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:00 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, September 19, 2013, @ 2:30 p.m.