



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Jasim Albandar, Elizabeth Bolman, Sally Harrison, Barbara Hoffman, Cheryl Hyde, Rita Krueger, Lynn Mandarano, Irina Mitrea, Mary Myers, Paul A. Pavlou, Michael Sachs, Scott Sieburth, Lawrence Venuti, Douglas Wager

Ex-Officio Member:

Zebulon Kendrick, Vice Provost, Graduate Education

Graduate School Staff:

Cheryl Jackson, Administrative Coordinator

Kathryn Petrich, 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 November 14, 2013. Lawrence Venuti seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Vice Provost began with the topic of fringe benefit rates. Temple University submitted this information for 2015 to the federal government. The rates are down a few percentage points from the previous year for Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and Postdoctoral Fellows. It is proposed that graduate students be hired with a 12-month appointment, as opposed to a 9-month contract and an additional 3-month contract. Doing so would lower the fringe benefit rates by 3.6%. A 12-month annual appointment translates into approximately \$1,000 in departmental savings per year for each TA and about \$850 in departmental savings annually for each RA.

Next, the Vice Provost provided an update on graduate enrollment data for Spring 2014. The number of doctoral students is down 6.3%. However, enrollment in master's programs is up in comparison with Spring 2012 and 2013 figures. In a similar vein, Dr. Kendrick noted that the Graduate School regularly receives application materials. When this occurs, it is determined to what program the applicant is applying. Those departments are then alerted to the presence of materials in the Graduate School. He offered that delays caused by the departments retrieving the information could be eliminated if the Graduate School were given charge to input the information into Banner.

Other updates were fourfold. First, with regard to tuition waivers for Research Assistants, the Vice Provost announced that Spring 2014 is the last semester that the Graduate School will pay tuition remission for RAs paid from grants. Second, data from the 2012 *NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates* show 101 African American students at Temple University graduated with a Ph.D., ranking us 17th in the nation. The Vice Provost expressed his concern that Temple remain in the top 20 on the survey. Third, a new vendor, Leapfrog Technologies, has been hired by the University to redesign the Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletins using CourseLeaf. The Vice Provost noted that updates

to the Graduate Bulletin are particularly timely and called for schools and colleges to list admission requirements therein. He suggested that it could be stated that “ordinarily” a 3.0 GPA is required or that the GPA is considered in combination with a portfolio. Finally, the issue of guests and visitors was addressed. The Vice Provost noted that in order to be in compliance with State Department visa requirements, a person arriving under a tourist visa must request a guest pass through the Human Resources Department so that the individual can be tracked while visiting Temple University. This is necessary when the time spent here is for non-paid activities, such as interviewing, observing in the lab, or presenting an informal talk. This is particularly relevant for international guests who can visit for a few days to several weeks.

The Vice Provost next addressed fellowship awards. In CFO “speak” about the RCM budget model, the Graduate School is a “support unit.” If the Graduate School receives 2% to 2.5% of graduate tuition for graduate scholarships under RCM, at most 30 students can be supported with a fellowship, fringe benefits, and tuition. He noted that the Graduate School is about to make \$2.5 million in commitments. This support would fund 50 students, including about 42 doctoral and 8 M.F.A. students; about 15 women in STEM fields would receive Future Faculty Fellowships.

With no old business, new business addressed the RCM budget model’s effect on graduate education. TUGSA negotiations are going well, and an agreement is expected within a few months of the contract’s end on February 14.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 4:10 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, February 20, 2014, @ 2:30 p.m.