

Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, January 17, 2013

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Jeffrey Draine, Joseph DuCette, Sally Harrison, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Jagannathan Krishnan, Mary Myers, Paul A. Pavlou, Vallorie J. Peridier, Peter S. Riseborough, Michael Sachs, Deborah Sheldon, Justin Yuan Shi, Paul Swann

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:

Jasim Albandar motioned to approve the minutes of November 15, 2012. Michael Sachs seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The first order of business was the restructuring of two M.M. degree programs: Music History and Music Theory. The Vice Provost noted in brief that the degree programs were restructured to allow students two semesters to complete the Final Written Project, which is required to be “of publishable quality.” This change necessitates an increase in total credits for the degree from 31 to 32 credits. Deborah Sheldon remarked that the restructuring truly helps students since it typically takes them more than one semester to complete the project and likewise helps professors in more accurately depicting their load count. The Graduate Board chose to move on the programs’ restructuring. First, Michael Sachs moved to approve the restructuring of the M.M. in Music History; Paul Pavlou seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Second, Deborah Sheldon moved to approve the restructuring of the M.M. in Music Theory; Michael Sachs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next topic of discussion was the Survey of Earned Doctorates, which all individuals earning a research doctorate are required to complete. The data are tabulated by the National Science Foundation. The data for 2011 show that the number of blacks receiving doctorates has decreased, although more individuals are now self-identifying as being of more than one race. Statistics show Temple University is low in its number of graduates in the physical sciences and engineering; time to degree is above the median; and about 30% of students are self-supported. It was further noted that 72% of graduating students are \$30,000 or less in debt. Also, while Temple was top 10 in 2010 for graduating black doctoral students, we are still top 20, with a rank of 15th, in 2011.

The Vice Provost noted briefly that the Graduate School’s website is undergoing an update. The new website design will be similar to that of the Provost and Research Administration offices’ web presence.

Next on the agenda were enrollment reports and application follow-up. A new design for enrollment reports was rolled out for undergraduate education, with a new design for graduate education to be readied in about a month. The reports are color-coded for President Theobald so he can readily determine from where increases stem. These reports are to be provided to the deans and will be crucial when they are given responsibility for their own budgets and generating their own revenues as the University moves to its new budgeting system. The Vice Provost noted, for example, that 30% of revenues currently go to terminal master's programs, but this will increase to 67% under RCM. He pointed out that certificate programs, professional science master's programs, and traditional master's programs are all ways to generate new revenues under RCM.

With regard to application follow-up, the Vice Provost noted that as of December 21, 2012, a large number of complete applications had yet to have a decision rendered. As a result, the Provost will be looking into the time to decision for master's programs. Dr. Kendrick further observed that a review of graduate program websites demonstrated that they inadequately prompt prospective students to apply. Many provide no link to the online application or the Graduate Bulletin; others require numerous clicks before one arrives at the online application. He stated that an "APPLY NOW" button should be added to these websites if the University hopes to attract the technology-savvy Millennial Generation (born early 1980s to early 2000s) and Generation 2020 (born around or shortly before the year 2000). For those who do apply, an email is sent within 36 hours thanking the applicants for applying and providing their TUID and information about next steps. The goal is to follow this up first with emails two weeks and four weeks out that ask applicants to check if their application is complete; later, an email is to be sent when an applicant's application is complete and ready for review. Concern was expressed by some that this last email might be problematic since the timeline to decision for some departments can stretch out for months. Ways to alleviate applicants' angst over delays in the review process were discussed, including advising applicants of a timeline to decision, a "hold" on their application, or their placement on an admissions wait list. The goal is to reduce the number of applicants who enroll elsewhere because Temple's time to decision is lengthy.

In old business, the Vice Provost noted that the Council of Deans endorsed the Year 1/Year 4 model of tuition remission offered by the Graduate School to fellowship students. This model, which would take effect in the 2013-2014 academic year, would result in the Graduate School providing 50% of tuition and the schools/colleges funding 50% of the tuition for total credits required to earn a degree as stated in the Graduate Bulletin. Dr. Kendrick further noted that a meeting is scheduled in one week's time with the Provost's Office to review the model.

In new business, evaluations of doctoral students were discussed. The Vice Provost advised that students who are not performing up to academic standards or who are not engaging in research should be provided with written warnings. He emphasized that paper documentation is vital in the event the student needs to be dismissed.

As a final point of interest, it was noted that Pennsylvania has some 5,000 fewer high school graduates this year. Having fewer high school graduates translates into fewer undergraduate applicants, which further translates into fewer applicants for graduate study in future years.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:50 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, @ 2:30 p.m.