



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

**Executive Conference Room
Student Faculty Center
Health Sciences Center Campus
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

Jasim Albandar, Jeffrey Draine, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Barbara Hoffman, Cheryl Hyde, Rita Krueger, Swati Nagar, Mayra Santiago, Lawrence Venuti, Kimberly Williams, Marla Wolfson

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:

Lawrence Venuti motioned to approve the minutes of September 19, 2013. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The first order of business was the restructuring of the master's degree in Mathematics. The M.A. is to be terminated and replaced with an M.S. with an optional concentration in Applied and Computational Mathematics. The Vice Provost noted that one question was raised by the Program Committee and answered; all committee members had then approved the degree's restructuring. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek motioned that the Graduate Board endorse the M.S. in Mathematics with the optional concentration. Jasim Albandar seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Vice Provost turned next to updates:

- The deadline for Doctoral Dissertation and Terminal Master's Project Completion Grants is set for October 21.
- Applications are up by 250 in comparison with this time last year. Setting an early deadline for fellowship nominees is under consideration.
- Updates to the application checklist in Banner are still not satisfactory. Only about 40% of master's applicants and 54% of admitted students have all items entered on the checklist. Ways to get the information into Banner through automation are being explored.
- The WES iGPA calculator software has been repurchased. This has been used to admit students more readily, with official transcripts required for certification by the Graduate School after an offer of admission has been extended.
- The PTE Academic, a test of English offered by Pearson and previously endorsed by the Graduate Board, has been endorsed across the University, including by the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). The minimal acceptable score is 53.

With no old business, discussion turned to two items of new business, both stemming from the Council of Deans meeting. The first was official transcripts. It was suggested that Temple University transcripts may be downloaded from Banner by the department of application instead of requiring current students and alumni to order and submit official transcripts. On the positive side, this action would increase efficiency of transcript receipt and decrease costs for applicants. The question was asked, however, if this would increase the burden for staff. The Vice Provost stated that he would check on the mechanics and legalities of having departmental staff download transcripts from Banner. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek motioned that the Graduate Board conditionally approve the download of Temple transcripts for current students and alumni applying to a graduate program at Temple University, dependent upon the Vice Provost's favorable findings with regard to mechanics and legalities. Swati Nagar seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item of new business was the deans' call for the devolving of master's programs from the Graduate School to the schools and colleges. They also want to end all admission requirements instituted by the Graduate Board and upheld by the Graduate School and establish their own admission requirements. It was noted that at the University of Pennsylvania, for example, each department delineates its admission requirements on its own website. It was asked how the University's rating is tied to admission standards. The response was that while the graduation rate of undergraduates is a key factor in the rating, the rating of graduate education is associated with specific programs. The Vice Provost offered that the Graduate School should still be responsible for an audit of substandard grades and that the Graduate Board would need to be very specific about admission standards.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 4:00 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, November 14, 2013, @ 2:30 p.m.