



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Daniel J. Canney, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Jay Fagan, Edward Flanagan, Thomas Gould, Marcia Hall, William Hitchcock, Barbara Hoffman, Luke Kahlich, James Korsh, Nicholas Kripal, Dan A. Liebermann, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Jeff Rush, Deborah Sheldon

Ex-Officio Member:

Aquiles Iglesias, Dean, Graduate School
Zebulon Kendrick, Associate Dean, Graduate School

Graduate School Staff:

Cheryl Jackson, Assistant to the Dean
Michael Toner, Research Associate

Approval of the Minutes:

Dimitrios Diamantaras motioned to approve the minutes of April 24, 2008. Edward Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Dean opened the first Graduate Board meeting of the year with a welcome. He introduced himself, welcomed the new Board members, and offered a brief overview of the work of the Graduate Board.

The first order of business was a review of the statistics for Fall 2008. Total applications and admissions increased, as did enrollment. Although a wide range of acceptance rates and yields exists from program to program, the overall acceptance rate is around 40% and the yield is about 50%; these figures remain fairly constant from year to year. The Dean noted that he asked the Associate Deans to provide, by the end of October, their targets of incoming students for Fall 2009 to ensure better planning.

The Dean advised that the University now counts full-time graduate students differently. Those who passed their comprehensive exam and are registered for one credit are now considered full-time. As a result of the change, 853 graduate students migrated from part-time to full-time status, bringing Temple's practices in line with those of other institutions. Outside of this, there is a trend for more of our graduate students to enroll full-time.

With regard to "old business," it was noted that the Provost received and reviewed the Graduate School Strategic Plan. She has decided to hire a consulting firm to look at graduate education at Temple. Broader issues need to be examined, particularly in relation to allocation of the University's resources.

In “new business,” the Dean complimented Dimitrios Diamantaras on having four doctoral students publish a book prior to graduating. He welcomed Graduate Board members to post such accomplishments on the Graduate School website.

Discussion turned to fellowships. Applications for dissertation and project completion grants for Spring 2009 are due Friday, October 17. Submissions will now be electronic with a limit of 10 pages of summary of work. It was also noted that the Graduate School has 94 fellows, including 21 future faculty, 12 presidential, and 61 university. The Dean announced that the funding pattern is being standardized: the Graduate School will fund the first two years of the four-year package. The previous system was complex and confusing. Stipends will be increased to be more competitive, although the funding levels are not yet ideal. The Dean also announced a change in policy: fellowship students can now work up to 20 hours a week during the summer, provided they are not taking classes. This helps to make the fellowship awards more competitive. A problem still exists in the third and fourth years, however, when stipends tend to drop. Departments that pay only the TUGSA minimum offer support to students that is less than they were getting before. Some relief lies in allowing students to work over the summer.

The next item of interest was an article entitled “Developing Professional Science Master’s Programs in Partnerships with Industry,” published by the Council of Graduate Schools. The Associate Dean noted that the National Research Council is pushing for more professional master’s degree programs.

The Associate Dean briefly described each of the four Graduate Board committees. The Student Appeals Committee reviews academic dismissals, requiring a timeline to completion for students who are readmitted. School/college representatives and the student are invited to present their cases. In addition, the Associate Deans have been asked to clean up their websites and present clear and concise information on their policies and procedures so as to reduce student appeals. The Fellowship Committee reviews fellowship applications, with all Board members serving on a subcommittee. The Policy Committee is responsible for the Strategic Plan and updates to the Graduate School policies and procedures. The Program Review Committee reviews program proposals for additions, revisions, and restructuring of graduate programs.

In closing, the Dean asked that Graduate Board members generate items to be discussed by the Graduate Board.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:45 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 23, 2008, @ 2:30 p.m.