



## Minutes of the Graduate Board

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Executive Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Student Faculty Center  
Health Sciences Center Campus  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

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### **Members Present:**

William Aaronson, Saroj K. Biswas, Beth Bolton, Daniel J. Canney, James L. Daniel,  
Edward Flanagan, Thomas Gould, Renee Hobbs, Barbara Hoffman, James Korsh,  
Dan A. Liebermann, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Wes Roehl, Dennis Silage, Paul Swann,  
Pablo Vila

### **Ex-Officio Member:**

Zebulon Kendrick, Associate Dean, Graduate School

### **Graduate School Staff:**

Cheryl Jackson, Assistant to the Dean  
Kathryn Petrich-LaFevre, Director of Graduate Information  
Michael Toner, Research Associate

### **Guest:**

Mark Eyerly, Associate Vice President of Communications

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Paul Swann motioned to approve the minutes of September 12, 2007. Dennis Silage seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

### **Business:**

The meeting began with a conversation with Mark Eyerly, Associate Vice President of Communications. His visit stemmed from discussion at the September meeting wherein concerns were raised that the impact of graduate education and graduate faculty activities is often overlooked. Mr. Eyerly first described his portfolio, which consists of four groups:

- News Communications, which deals both proactively and reactively with the media and includes *Temple Times* and *Temple Today*.
- Creative Services, which handles marketing for print and web.
- Alumni and Development, which communicates with alumni through blast emails and *Temple Review*.
- Web Communications, which collaborates with schools and colleges on their websites and includes temple.edu, which is currently under review for a redesign to launch early in 2008.

Mr. Eyerly pointed to the branding campaign that has helped to build the visibility of Temple, noting that the current advertising campaign is designed to showcase alumni pride. He explained that he is currently meeting with the deans of each of the schools and colleges and their communication teams to discuss strategic messaging. He acknowledged the need to carve out a

niche for graduate education at Temple to make it better known in the field, noting the shifting demographic to graduate education as the population ages. He suggested promotional items highlighting the achievements of graduate students and faculty be forwarded to Ray Betzner, Director of News Communications.

The next agenda item was a request for action on various graduate programs. Associate Dean Zebulon Kendrick noted that the Program Review Committee had reviewed each of the proposals electronically and had given its approval to bring the proposals forward to the Graduate Board for a vote. Dr. Kendrick pointed out that significant work had been done on the proposals prior to their presentation to the Program Review Committee and that the authors had addressed questions as they arose during the editing process. He noted that all University policies and procedures had been met as designed. Concern was expressed over the possibility that some students might attempt to switch from a degree program with a thesis option to a new non-thesis option. It was pointed out, however, that such a change must be approved at the college level and, further, that different admission criteria are often applied in determining in which program option a student is admitted. The results of the vote on the graduate programs were as follows:

- The restructuring of the Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Political Science: The Graduate Board moved the proposal directly to a vote. William Aaronson so moved; Wes Roehl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The establishment of an M.S. degree in Molecular Biology and Genetics with thesis and non-thesis options: Satisfied with the earlier explanation about options, the Graduate Board moved directly to a vote. Wes Roehl so moved; William Aaronson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The establishment of an M.S. degree in Clinical Research and Translational Medicine: Discussion ensued about the need to establish a degree with a small cohort of only two students. It was suggested that the proposal language be modified prior to submission to the Board of Trustees to state: “The program will begin with a small cohort of two to four students. As external funding becomes available, the cohort is expected to grow proportionately with said funding.” A vote was first taken on the amendment. Wes Roehl so moved; Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A vote was then taken on the proposal as amended. Barbara Hoffman so moved; Thomas Gould seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Associate Dean noted that the Board of Trustees’ passage of this degree would constitute the establishment of Temple University’s first joint degree. A joint degree is a single degree, offered at the graduate and professional levels, conferred by two schools/colleges upon a student’s completion of a required set of courses. This differs from dual degrees in which a student is awarded two degrees upon the completion of the required sets of courses.
- The termination of the M.Ed. degree in Kinesiology and establishment of an M.S. degree in Kinesiology with four transcribed concentrations: The Graduate Board moved directly to a vote. William Aaronson so moved; Wes Roehl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The restructuring of the Ph.D. degree in Kinesiology with four transcribed concentrations: The Graduate Board moved directly to a vote. Wes Roehl so moved; Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- The restructuring of the M.S. degrees in the Biomedical Science departments with a non-thesis option: Discussion ensued about the need to establish a non-thesis option. It was

explained that this will increase the pool at the master's level, thereby both increasing the pool for the Ph.D. program and allowing for natural attrition. When a vote was called, Wes Roehl so moved; Renee Hobbs seconded the motion. The vote tally was 15 for, 1 against, and 0 abstentions.

An update was provided on the Postdoctoral Fellows Office. The Associate Dean advised that the policies and procedures document of said office is currently being rewritten by the Dean of the Graduate School. When satisfactory, the document will be forwarded to the Provost and the President prior to review by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Kendrick noted three key changes from the old document:

1. The document formerly stipulated that postdoctoral fellows will be engaged in advanced training for research at institutions other than Temple University. The limitation of "other than Temple University" has been removed. The Graduate Board expressed approval for the change, noting that an excellent postdoc could now compete for a tenure-track position at Temple.
2. The document formerly stated that a postdoctoral fellow was limited to six years in the position. This has been restated to say "no more than five years as a postdoctoral fellow at Temple University." The Graduate Board agreed that this change would reduce confusion in determining the length of an individual's postdoctoral experience.
3. The document formerly limited postdoctoral appointments to one year with yearly renewals. The revised document notes that an appointment is "ordinarily for one year," but that the contract can be extended beyond one year, pending successful review. The principal investigator retains the right to terminate the postdoctoral fellowship after one year. The Graduate Board noted that this change would allow for greater flexibility in the length of appointment.

It was further advised that the Graduate School is moving to have the postdoctoral fellow appointment letters incorporated into the Ultimus Workflow system. Appointment letters would be initiated in the departments.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned @ 3:50 p.m.