

Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Daniel J. Canney, Jay Fagan, Thomas Gould, Marcia Hall, William Hitchcock, Barbara Hoffman, Deborah Howe, Luke Kahlich, Dan A. Liebermann, Jeff Rush, Michael Sachs, Deborah Sheldon, Dennis Silage, 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

Guests:

Mary Myers, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture
Robert Patterson, Department of Public Health

Approval of the Minutes:

Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009. Deborah Sheldon seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Associate Dean opened the meeting with the business of academic programs. He introduced Robert Patterson, who spoke about the restructuring of the M.S. in Environmental Health. The degree has been offered for the past 35 years, but a loss in federal training grant funds has resulted in severe attrition in the number of enrolled students. In an attempt to make the degree program more attractive to a broader base, the number of credit hours is being reduced from 42 to 36 and the number of required courses is fewer with five as opposed to 12. Mary Myers was scheduled to speak about the establishment of a master's degree in Landscape Architecture, but a scheduling conflict delayed her arrival. The Graduate Board moved ahead with a vote on both programs:

- With regard to the M.S. in Environmental Health, Michael Sachs motioned to approve and Dennis Silage seconded the motion. The vote was 12 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.
- As for the Master in Landscape Architecture, Michael Sachs motioned to approve and Luke Kahlich seconded the motion. The vote was 12 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

The next matter was tuition remission for Research Assistants and overhead return. The Graduate Board continued the discussion of the policy that went into effect January 1, 2009, that stated tuition remission will only be awarded to RAs on grants that provide 50% overhead return to the University. Members brainstormed ways in which to eliminate the funding shortfall for graduate tuition remission that sparked the new policy:

- PIs with multiple small grants could pool their funds to reach the 50% threshold.

- The University could charge in-state tuition for all Teaching and Research Assistants, regardless of the students' residency.
- A minimum dollar amount of overhead return could be set as a threshold if the overhead return is less than 50%. In this way, larger grants with smaller overhead return would not be excluded.
- A percentage of the overhead return for a grant could be taken off the top and earmarked for graduate tuition remission, with the balance redistributed something along the current lines of 55% to the University and 45% to the schools/colleges.
- A percentage of the University's total overhead return funds could be dedicated to graduate tuition remission.

The discussion resulted in three motions being proposed:

1. All Research Assistants and Teaching Assistants are to be charged in-state tuition, regardless of residency prior to matriculating at Temple University. Deborah Howe motioned to approve and Luke Kahlich seconded the motion. The vote was 13 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.
2. The Chief Financial Officer will develop a tax model that recovers the ongoing tuition remission deficit by earmarking annually a fixed percentage of the University's total annual overhead return for RA tuition remission. Deborah Howe motioned to approve and Marcia Hall seconded the motion. The vote was 13 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.
3. The University will return to the previous policy of providing graduate tuition remission for Research Assistants on any grant covering an RA's stipend with overhead return of 26% or greater, while the question of graduate tuition remission on grants with overhead return of less than 26% will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Deborah Howe motioned to approve and Deborah Sheldon seconded the motion. The vote was 13 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Finally, the Associate Dean noted that he is currently holding two proposals that have received favorable responses from a majority of the Program Review Committee. He asked if the proposals should be held until the March meeting or if an electronic vote could be held sooner. Deborah Howe made the motion to conduct the vote electronically after all members of the Program Review Committee have had an opportunity to review the proposals; Luke Kahlich seconded the motion. The vote was 13 for, 0 against, and 0 abstaining.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:40 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, March 26, 2009, @ 2:30 p.m.