Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:
William Aaronson, Deborah Confredo, Angelika Dimoka, Deborah Drabick, Mark Franko, Jeffrey Godel, Marcia Hall, Crystal Harold, Sally Harrison, Jagannathan Krishnan, Doug Lombardi, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Timothy Patterson, Joseph Picone, Alison Reynolds, Caterina Roman, Edward Sobel, Elisabeth Subrin

Ex-Officio Member:
Zebulon Kendrick, Vice Provost, Graduate Education

Graduate School Staff:
Tangia Boyd, Assistant Director of Business and Financial Operations
Kathryn Petrich, Director of Graduate Communications
Margaret Pippet, Assistant Dean

Guest:
Erika Clemons, Director of Global Programs, Office of International Affairs

Approval of the Minutes:
Doug Lombardi motioned to approve the minutes of November 16, 2017. Joseph Picone seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:
The meeting began with a presentation by Erika Clemons, Director of Global Programs in the Office of International Affairs, on “Extending Accelerated Master’s Degrees to International Partner Universities.” The idea behind partnering with international institutions is to attract international students, which has become increasingly more difficult for U.S. institutions because non-U.S. universities have improved in recent years and the cost of studying in the United States is relatively high at about $100,000 over two years. Under this new plan, students from partner institutions complete more coursework at their home institution before arriving to undertake four semesters of coursework at Temple: Summer, Fall, Spring, and Summer. The number of partner institutions would be limited, although all rank relatively high in the QS World University Rankings. Programs to offer the 4+1 master’s degree would be decided at Temple and then interest determined by the partners. Faculty from Temple would initially visit the partner institutions to teach courses lasting three to four weeks. At present, four universities in China, three in Taiwan, and one each in Israel, Lebanon, Macau, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are potential partner institutions. Thirteen degree programs in five colleges (Education, Engineering, Liberal Arts, Public Health, and Science and Technology) are under consideration as offerings.

The Vice Provost advised that the due date for proposed graduate program actions has been moved up for the May Board of Trustees meeting. The deadline is now February 19. He expressed his appreciation for the Graduate Board’s willingness to vote electronically on endorsement of the actions.
Next, the Vice Provost provided an update on the Philadelphia Brain Gain. He stated that carryover funds will be used as incentives to enhance domestic diversity by newly matriculating research doctoral and master’s students who graduated from a public Philadelphia high school. Doctoral students would be awarded $10,000, with the promise of full funding by the department for at least the first year. Master's students would receive $3,000. The scholarships would be offered after the student is accepted and pays her/his matriculation fee.

Admission/enrollment reports for Spring 2018 were addressed. To date, the number of admitted/registered master’s degree students is up overall, and a total of $198,000 of incentive funds is to be awarded to five schools and colleges. Enrollment as compared with the same time last year is up by 331 students. The final number of admitted/enrolled students will be shared at the February Graduate Board meeting.

In old business, the Vice Provost reminded Board members that he has funds available for professional development and called for new incentive ideas.

In new business, it was noted that a proposal was received from the College of Public Health to rename a Ph.D. program, but it arrived after the deadline. He further advised that he is involved in TUGSA negotiations, as the current four-year contract is set to end mid-February. The big issue at present is the number of steps required for photocopying. He anticipates that the end of negotiations is close at hand.

Announcements were the last order of business. First, fellowships are due in about two weeks. He advised that one’s best judgment be used in scoring. Only the best of the best should be offered fellowships in the first round. He estimates 70 to 75 offers in the first round, with another 35 to 40 in the second round for a total of about 110 offers. The hope is to produce about a 50% yield of 50 to 52 accepted offers. Second, it is budget time, and the Graduate School’s budget was prepared and submitted in advance of budget hearings. This year, deans will have more say in the hearings, given that they are taxed on support services. Budgets prepared by service units such as the Graduate School will be posted so stakeholders can review the information. Finally, Tyler School of Art’s architecture program and the College of Public Health are collaborating on a post-professional master’s degree in health and the environment.

Adjournment:
The meeting adjourned @ 3:40 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, February 15, 2018, @ 2:30 p.m.