Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, November 16, 2017
Executive Conference Room, 4th Floor
Student Faculty Center
Health Sciences Center Campus
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:
Jeffrey Godel, Barbara Hoffman, Dustin Kidd, Doug Lombardi, Joseph Picone

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

Approval of the Minutes:
Doug Lombardi motioned to approve the minutes of October 18, 2017. Dustin Kidd seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:
The Vice Provost began with graduate program actions:

- The College of Education proposes a change in array for the M.S.Ed. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and for the graduate certificate in English Language Teaching.
- The Fox School of Business and Management proposes to establish a concentration in Operations and Supply Chain Management for the Ph.D. in Business Administration. Adding this concentration fills a void in that the Fox School does not currently prepare students to be scholars and teachers in this core business function. Further, the new concentration will serve to bolster public opinion about the comprehensiveness of doctoral education at the Fox School.

Doug Lombardi motioned to endorse all proposed graduate program actions. Dustin Kidd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the Vice Provost raised the topic of programs in abeyance and their appearance in the Graduate Bulletin. He explained that programs are typically put into abeyance when sufficient faculty are not available to offer a program. Currently, these programs are noted in the Graduate Bulletin as “not currently accepting applications.” A new strategic marketing plan drawing from the Graduate Bulletin has resulted in a call by Computer Services to state an end date for a program’s abeyance in the Graduate Bulletin and/or on the department’s webpage. The Associate Deans do not, however, favor this idea. The Vice Provost noted that the master’s in Linguistics was in abeyance for 10 years before the decision was made to terminate the program. At present, 16 programs are in abeyance. Discussion will be ongoing.
The next item on the agenda was dissertation and project completion grant awards. For Spring 2018, 50 grants were awarded, with seven applications not funded. An update was also provided on the 21 unfinished completion grants awarded in Spring and Fall 2017. As of November 13, 2017, 2 were defended; 4 announced their defense; 7 are expected to be completed before or by April 2018; 6 have yet to anticipate their defense; and 2 finished in August but have yet to graduate (one has a financial hold, while the other failed to submit an application to graduate). In addition, a History awardee from Spring 2015 has finally announced the dissertation defense.

Statistics on time to completion for research dissertations were next presented. The timespan reviewed was January 2010 to August 2017 during which 1,594 dissertations were completed. Time to completion ranged from a low of 4.72 ± 1.53 years for the College of Engineering to 7.61 ± 2.35 years for the College of Liberal Arts, excluding Psychology. The time to completion covers only the years of doctoral study; years spent in master’s study are excluded, if the degree was pre-earned.

Enrollment for Spring 2018 was reported. As of November 12, 2017, enrollment for Spring 2018 is down by 1,795 from the Spring 2017 census number of 4,249 students. As compared with one year earlier on November 13, 2016, enrollment is actually up by 41 students. The Vice Provost advised that in reviewing enrollment reports, determinations were made about the number of enrolled graduate students hailing from the various U.S. regions affected by natural disasters between late August and early November. The following enrollment numbers were reported:

- A “fair number” from Texas, which was pummeled by Hurricane Harvey on August 25
- 10 from the U.S. Virgin Islands, which was battered by Hurricane Irma on September 6 and Hurricane Maria on September 20
- 119 from four counties in Florida, which was hard hit by Irma on September 10
- 2 from Puerto Rico, which was ravaged by Maria on September 20
- 35 to 40 from Northern California, which was devastated by wildfires in early October

The Vice Provost announced deadlines related to submission of graduate program proposals to ensure readiness for both the March and May 2018 meetings of the Board of Trustees:

- For the March meeting, proposals are to be submitted to the Graduate School by Friday, January 5. The proposals will be reviewed and vetted by Monday, January 8. All proposals will then be forwarded to the Graduate Board for endorsement consideration with voting to be completed by Friday, January 12.
- For the May meeting, proposals are due to the Graduate School by Monday, February 19. The proposals will be reviewed and vetted by Friday, February 23. All proposals will then be forwarded to the Graduate Board for endorsement consideration with voting to be completed by Wednesday, February 28.

In old business, professional development for graduate students was discussed. The Vice Provost suggested that professional development opportunities should also be open to postdoctoral fellows. It was further noted that better job searches are needed at Temple. Domestic diversity incentives were also revisited. Newly enrolled domestic underrepresented research doctoral students are funded at the rate of $12,000 in Years 1 and 2 and $10,000 in Years 3 and 4. Domestic underrepresented master’s students are provided with a $2,000 incentive in Year 1.
In new business, two items were discussed. First was the committee structure for practice dissertations/capstone projects. Dissertation committees for the research Ph.D. typically require three internal members and one external reviewer. Because the practice doctorate (D.B.A., D.M.A., and Ed.D.) is less in-depth than a research degree, Fox School of Business and Management and the College of Education are requesting that their practice committees have a total of three members, which would include two department members and one who is from a related Temple department or someone external to Temple. Additional discussion is needed.

The second topic was changing the award period for dissertation and project completion grants. The time period would be extended to six months: September to February for Fall, and January to June for Spring. Fewer awards would be made, but monies would increase to approximately $13,500. Up to six months of financing would be offered, provided students justify their need with a timeline to completion. Further discussion is needed.

**Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned @ 3:55 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, @ 2:30 p.m.