Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, November 17, 2016

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

Members Present:
William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Lila Corwin Berman, Deborah Confredo, Jody Hey, Barbara Hoffman, Melanie Julian, Dustin Kidd, Ceridwyn King, Heather LaMarre, Timothy Patterson, Paul A. Pavlou, Joseph Picone, Michael Sachs, Ashley West

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
Michael Toner, Associate Director for Graduate Enrollment and Data Management

Approval of the Minutes:
Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of October 13, 2016. Deborah Confredo seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:
The Vice Provost began with graduate program actions:

• Boyer College of Music and Dance proposes to restructure the M.M. in Music Education by reducing the total number of required credits from 32 to 30. This is effected by reducing the number of elective credits by 3, while increasing the number of credits for the final project/thesis from 2 to 3.
• The College of Science and Technology proposes to establish a P.S.M. in Scientific Writing. The 30-credit program also draws on the skills of faculty in the School of Media and Communication to enable STEM students to develop the expertise to pursue medical and scientific writing and give those currently employed in STEM areas the opportunity to enhance and broaden their skills to advance professionally.
• The College of Public Health proposes to terminate the M.A. in Linguistics. The program is not active and has graduated no student in more than 15 years.

Michael Sachs motioned to endorse the proposed graduate program actions. Timothy Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the chairing of practice dissertations. Following discussion of the topic at the October meeting, the Policy Committee met to formulate general guidelines, which were presented to the Graduate Board at large. The standards will be forwarded to the schools and colleges, which can set more stringent parameters but not lesser ones. The schools/colleges will then return their guidelines to the Graduate Board for endorsement. The goal is to have the template to the schools/colleges before Thanksgiving.
The Vice Provost then provided an update on the dissertation and M.F.A. project completion grant awards. Across nine schools and colleges, 56 students were offered awards.

The subject of course fees was next addressed. Several fellows have expressed concerns about having to pay course fees, which range from $1,300 annually for domestic students to $1,500 per year for international students. The Vice Provost stated that the Graduate School agrees to pay course fees, but only if the schools/colleges similarly pay the course fees during their years of funding. A signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be required. It was asked if schools and colleges can decide for themselves if they choose to pay. The response was in the affirmative. It was then asked if paying course fees will affect the number of fellowships awarded. In this case, the answer was “no.”

The next agenda item was “International Research Exchange Students.” The Vice Provost began by noting that the Visiting Research Scholar Student category was eliminated as of October 1, 2016. In light of this, he and Martyn Miller, Senior Director for International Services, propose the introduction of an International Research Exchange Student category. The need for such arises because high-quality international students are sent by their home countries to the United States to perform research. To maintain full-time status as students, they will take 1 or 2 credits of course number 9998 each Fall and Spring term on a non-matriculated basis. Tuition will be paid by the department – and the intent is to have the department also fund the students’ health insurance. Health insurance is required for international students, but often dropped by students upon arrival to save money. The International Research Exchange Student will arrive on an F-1 visa, not a J-1, thereby allowing the individual to stay for 2 to 3 years.

In old business, the first topic was undergraduates receiving graduate course credit in their senior year. The College of Engineering is expected to draft a proposal allowing seniors to enroll in graduate courses earning graduate credits for coursework taken in addition to the number of credits needed for the undergraduate degree. The questions raised are whether this should be open to all disciplines and if students should only be permitted to take the courses offered by their own department. It was brought to the Graduate Board’s attention that doctoral students in the School of Media and Communication cannot earn course credit if an undergraduate student is in their graduate course.

Second, enrollment incentives were revisited. The incentive for the Spring 2017 and Summer 2017 terms is $1,000 per admitted/registered master’s student above the number of master’s students admitted/registered in the same academic term in 2016. Based on the funding stream, online programs may be excluded.

The third item was domestic diversity in graduate programs. At the doctoral level, Latinos and African Americans constitute 8% of the graduate student body; the amount is 15% at the master’s level. The goal is to increase the doctoral percentage to 10 and the master’s percentage to 20.

Fourth and finally, professional development for graduate students was noted. Funds are available for schools and colleges, but funded events must be open to more than just a single department.
In new business, the Vice Provost noted advances in outreach. An article is in the works for *Temple Now* to tout the many student successes in the School of Medicine. In addition, the Graduate School now has a Facebook page and has established a LinkedIn account.

**Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned @ 3:45 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, @ 2:30 p.m.