Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, September 14, 2017

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

Members Present:
William Aaronson, Deborah Confredo, Mark Franko, Daniel Funk, Jeffrey Godel, Marcia Hall, Sally Harrison, Barbara Hoffman, Dustin Kidd, Ceridwyn King, Jagannathan Krishnan, Doug Lombardi, A. Marjatta Lyyra, Timothy Patterson, Joseph Picone, Alison Reynolds, Caterina Roman, Michael Sachs, Justin Shi, Edward Sobel, Ryan Vander Wielen, Ho-Lun Wong

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

Guests:
Jacqueline McCafferty, Director of the Intensive English Language Program, Office of International Affairs
James Short, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions, Boyer College of Music and Dance

Approval of the Minutes:
Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of April 13, 2017. Deborah Confredo seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:
The Vice Provost began by welcoming new members to the Graduate Board. He then introduced the guests who were in attendance to explain a newly instituted program called “Graduate Access Temple” (GAT). The program is being piloted in Boyer College of Music and Dance’s music performance programs. It is designed to provide prospective students who do not meet the language requirement to be immersed in English language and University culture.

New visa requirements state that no student can be admitted to a degree program if s/he does not meet all requirements. Students are accepted into GAT for “x” major for “y” number of semesters, and their official application to a degree program is rolled to the next semester. GAT is available as follows:

- A 4-week summer orientation is open to all graduate students with an iBT score of 61-74 or IELTS score of 5.0-5.5.
- Boyer students with a score of 70-73 iBT or 5.0 IELTS take one semester of GAT.
- Boyer students with a score of 61-69 iBT or 4.5 IELTS take two semesters of GAT.

Students who complete the course do not have to retake the language test.
GAT is currently a collaborative effort between the Intensive English Language Program and Boyer College. Students enrolled in the program are required to take two GAT courses each morning, Monday through Friday. These classes are provided by specialists trained in second language acquisition. Students register for these non-credit courses through DestinyOne so the courses do not appear on their official transcript. The students also take classes in their major area offered by Boyer College in the afternoon and evening. Boyer has 10 students enrolled in GAT in Fall 2017.

The Vice Provost noted that current committee assignments and the schedule of deadlines for fellowships and completion grants are posted on Blackboard.

Clarification was offered about three types of appointments processed by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs:

- Visiting Research Scholar/Graduate must be currently enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program in the United States or, if a recent graduate, employed at another U.S. academic institution and participating in a research and/or scholarly training or exchange program under the direction of a faculty mentor. The appointment can be for up to three years.
- Visiting Research Scholar/Postgraduate holds a terminal graduate degree (or equivalent) or is a recognized expert in her/his field. The appointment is for 12 months or less.
- J-1 Student Intern is an international degree-seeking student satisfying a degree requirement for practical field experience. The individual may participate in the internship program for a maximum of 12 months per academic level; is required to return to the home institution; and is ineligible to return to the United States for one year from the completion date if the student intern was in the U.S. for more than six months.

The Vice Provost next addressed graduate enrollments. The number of students enrolled in master’s degree programs at Temple University has increased from 3,409 in Fall 2014 to 4,669 in Fall 2017. Incentives of $1,250 per admitted/registered master’s student above the number of admitted/registered master’s students in Fall 2016 were available for Fall 2017. Incentives increase to $1,500 per additional admitted/registered master’s student in the Spring and Summer 2018 semesters. A goal of 5,000 enrolled master’s students is desired by Fall 2019. In the 2017-2018 academic year, incentives have also been made available to increase the domestic diversity of the graduate student body. For doctoral students, a four-year incentive of $44,000 is available for newly enrolled domestic underrepresented research doctoral students 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 eligible for a $2,000 incentive in Year 1. If any carryover funds become available, the Vice Provost plans to request incentives for the admission of Philadelphia residents into master’s programs to ensure the “Philadelphia Brain Gain” and demonstrate to the Commonwealth how education funds are being spent.

Admission deadlines for master’s degree applications were announced:

- Applications submitted by November 1, 2017 must be decided on by December 15, 2017.
- Applications submitted by March 1, 2018 must have a decision rendered by April 16, 2018.

With regard to doctoral dissertation and MFA project completion grants, the Vice Provost advised that 11 of the 44 awards made in Spring 2017 did not result in a completed dissertation/project by the end of the semester.
Graduate action on the agenda was limited to the establishment of a new MBA concentration in International Management. Daniel Funk motioned to endorse the establishment of the concentration. Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

With no old business, discussion turned to new business. First, the Vice Provost advised that he is reviewing the “Structure of the Graduate School” document because updates are required. For example, it discusses procedures for paper balloting in the election of Graduate Faculty.

Second, the Vice Provost advised that funds are available to promote professional development of graduate students. He stated that Associate Deans can contact him about cost-sharing. He noted that the Graduate School is assisting in sending four staff and five students to the Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, hosted by the Compact for Faculty Diversity of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) in late October.

Third and finally, the Vice Provost noted that confusion over the SPEAK test created a problem for several students. International students must receive a score of 50 on the SPEAK test if they are to serve as teaching assistants. If they do not achieve that score, they must enroll in an intensive English communication course through the Intensive English Language Program. They cannot teach until they successfully complete the course. He reminded all that language to this effect is included in the Teaching Assistant contract letter.

**Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned @ 3:50 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, @ 2:30 p.m.