



## Minutes of the Graduate Board

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

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### **Members Present:**

William Aaronson, Saroj K. Biswas, Daniel J. Canney, James L. Daniel, Boris Datskovsky, Dimitrios Diamantaras, Jay Fagan, Edward Flanagan, Thomas Gould, Marc Lamont Hill, William Hitchcock, Renee Hobbs, Barbara Hoffman, Deborah Howe (for Mary Myers), James Korsh, Dan A. Liebermann, Michael Sachs, Dennis Silage, Jon Suzuki, Paul Swann

### **Ex-Officio Member:**

Aquiles Iglesias, Dean, Graduate School  
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

### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Michael Sachs motioned to approve the minutes of November 29, 2007. Edward Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

### **Business:**

The first item on the agenda was action required on three graduate programs:

- Establishment of a Certificate in Play: The certificate was developed at the Harrisburg campus for offer there, although it has the potential to be made available at Main campus in the future. The Graduate Board moved to a vote. Michael Sachs so moved; Paul Swann seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote tally of 14 for, 1 against, and 0 abstentions.
- Renaming of the “Tourism” concentration for the Ph.D. degree in Business Administration to “Tourism and Sport”: The Graduate Board moved directly to a vote. Michael Sachs so moved; Jon Suzuki seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote tally of 16 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.
- Change in the Array of Courses for the “Tourism and Sport” concentration for the Ph.D. degree in Business Administration: The Graduate Board moved directly to a vote. Michael Sachs so moved; Paul Swann seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote tally of 16 for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.
- Establishment of four concentrations in the Master of Public Health degree: The Graduate Board moved directly to a vote. Michael Sachs so moved; Paul Swann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote tally of 17 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

The next topic for discussion was the definition of full-time graduate student. In the past, the Graduate School has utilized a different definition from that of the Office of Institutional Research, which viewed a full-time graduate student only as s/he who is enrolled for nine semester hours. This definition was problematic, especially when reporting statistics that impact Temple's profile as an institution. The Dean was pleased to announce that the Office of Institutional Research is expected to revise its definition to the Graduate School's standard:

A full-time graduate student at Temple University is one who is enrolled for nine or more semester hours; one who is enrolled for six or more semester hours and is employed as a Teaching or Research Assistant at the University; or one who is a doctoral student enrolled for one or more semester hours after completing all coursework.

The Dean questioned full-time status for master's students working on their thesis or terminal project. Full-time status for these students varies widely from program to program, which makes coding for ISIS problematic. He observed that further work on this definition is needed. The Dean also noted that an "IF" code does exist for international students to demonstrate full-time status for visa purposes.

"Other business" was discussed. The Dean explained that a petition was presented to the Provost seeking to allow undergraduate students with two courses or eight semester hours of coursework remaining to walk at graduation. (It was noted that effective May 2008 no diplomas will be received at commencement; all will be mailed following confirmation of degree completion.) Noting that this was approved at the undergraduate level, the Dean stated that a policy was requested with regard to graduate students. The Graduate Board unilaterally determined that the present policy stands, i.e., that a graduate student can walk only when all degree requirements for the degree have been completed. Renee Hobbs moved; Paul Swann seconded; and the following motion passed with a vote tally of 18 for, 1 against, and 0 abstentions:

In recognition of the integrity and symbolism of the graduation ceremony, as well as acknowledging the logistical challenges involved, the Graduate Board affirms that graduate students be permitted to participate in commencement only when all requirements for the degree have been satisfied.

Jay Fagan expressed concern about the impact that the graduation policy would have on current practices.

Lastly, the Dean made a PowerPoint presentation on Graduate Students, one which had been prepared for the purpose of strategic planning. He noted that graduate students constitute 15% of the student body at Temple. A number of slides were shown to demonstrate the trends in graduate education at Temple over the past 10 years. Several additional slides were presented suggesting ways to improve graduate education in the near term.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned @ 4:10 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, February 21, 2008, @ 2:30 p.m.