



## Minutes of the Graduate Board

*Wednesday, February 20, 2013*

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

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### **Members Present:**

William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Elizabeth Bolman, Kurosh Darvish, Jeffrey Draine, Daniel Funk, Petra Goedde, Sally Harrison, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Jagannathan Krishnan, Michael Maynard, Swati Nagar, Michael Sachs, Justin Yuan Shi, Sandra Suárez, Douglas Wager

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

Zebulon Kendrick, Vice Provost, Graduate School

### **Graduate School Staff:**

Cheryl Jackson, Administrative Coordinator

Kathryn Petrich-LaFevre, Director of Graduate Information

Michael Toner, Associate Director for Graduate Enrollment and Data Management

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

Jagannathan Krishnan motioned to approve the minutes of January 17, 2013. William Aaronson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

### **Business:**

The Vice Provost began the meeting by welcoming Michael Maynard as the representative for the School of Media and Communication. He then briefly stated that the Graduate School's redesigned website is live, noting that the graduate course listings have been excluded since these represented a duplication of the information available through Banner.

The next order of business was the establishment of an M.S. degree in Business Research. This degree program was proposed as a means to earn a master's degree by the Ph.D. student who is unable to complete the requirements for the doctorate. William Aaronson explained that the Ph.D. is not related to the M.B.A. or any other business degree. Students occasionally are unable to finish the Ph.D., chiefly stopping out between coursework and the dissertation proposal. The M.S. in Business Research requires the completion of 30 credits of the business core, whereas the Ph.D. requires 48 credits. The degree is intended to be an unadvertised terminal master's, although the Fox School of Business and Management reserves the right for students to enroll directly into the program in the future. Those students who choose the M.S. in Business Research cannot later change their minds and continue work on the Ph.D. The Vice Provost advised that the Program Committee will review the proposal before a vote by the Graduate Board is called for.

The Vice Provost turned to the topic of funding levels for dissertation and project completion grants. In the past, the Graduate School offered an \$8,000 stipend plus 1 credit of dissertation research at the doctoral level and a \$4,500 stipend plus 1-3 credits of tuition at the master's level. Until recently, master's students were able to receive funding for consumables, but the IRS has stopped that. The Graduate School would like to end the funding distinction between the doctoral and master's levels and instead offer all awardees \$10,000 plus 1 credit of tuition. Further, the

stipends would run for five months: August to December for the Fall, and January to May for the Spring. Michael Sachs motioned that a \$10,000 stipend paid over five months with one credit of tuition be offered to research doctorate and M.F.A. students awarded a dissertation or project completion grant. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Dr. Kendrick noted that the Spring 2013 awards were given to 17 doctoral students and about 9 M.F.A. students. Fewer awards were offered in the Fall due to budgetary concerns.

Next on the agenda were graduate application and enrollment reports. The new design for undergraduate education is color-coded for President Theobald, showing applications received, applications completed, number admitted, deposits received, and number registered. The new design for graduate education also includes statistics related to the GRE. The value of the graduate report, which is basically a duplicate of the undergraduate version, was questioned since graduate education differs greatly from undergraduate. The Vice Provost noted that the information is to be delivered to the deans and associate deans for their use.

The Vice Provost made two announcements. First, funding through the First Summers Research Initiative is available for domestic underrepresented students in their field of study, based on their self-identification in Banner. The Graduate School is able to fund 35 students this summer who have not yet reached candidacy. The student must have a plan to engage in a mentored research project. Second, the Graduate School is sponsoring a publishing workshop through the Center for the Humanities at Temple (CHAT) in March. Two experts will speak on publishing one's first book in the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities. Participation is open first to University fellows and other grant recipients.

No old business was raised.

In new business, the question of how the RCM model will affect the Graduate School was raised. The Vice Provost responded that there have been no indications to date. There was earlier talk of devolving professional master's degrees from the Graduate School's purview, with master's degrees leading to the doctorate not devolving. But at present, Dr. Kendrick awaits a meeting with the Provost and his budget manager. The question of a formula for TA allotment was also raised. The Vice Provost noted that TAs are allotted based on legacy. The deans set their budget with the Provost and then divide the TA positions among their departments. When a Graduate School audit of TA assignments was performed recently, the independent committee that did the review determined that 22 TA positions could be redistributed based on low class sizes.

As a final point of interest, it was noted that given tax consequences on tuition for Academic Interns, AI positions should be transitioned to RA positions.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned @ 3:45 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on the Health Sciences Center Campus, in the Executive Conference Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Student Faculty Center, on Thursday, March 21, 2013, @ 2:30 p.m.