



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, November 15, 2012

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Elizabeth Bolman, Joseph DuCette, Daniel Funk, Petra Goedde, Sally Harrison, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Mary Myers, Swati Nagar, Paul A. Pavlou, Peter S. Riseborough, Michael Ryan, Michael Sachs, Scott Sieburth, Paul Swann, Marla Wolfson

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

Guest:

Don Lee, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts

Approval of the Minutes:

Jasim Albandar motioned to approve the minutes of October 17, 2012. Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The first order of business was the restructuring of the M.F.A. in Creative Writing. Don Lee explained that when the M.A. was restructured to become the M.F.A. in 2010, a few changes were made: a literature class was replaced with a craft class; thesis credits were increased from 0 to 6; and the overall credit count was increased from 30 to 36. He noted that when he became director of the program in 2011, he began to receive complaints about the increase in thesis credits because students believed it levied an unusual financial burden. The current restructuring of the M.F.A. reduces the number of thesis credits to 3 and the overall credit count to 33. The reduction in credits will serve to make the program more competitive. The Vice Provost stated that the department would like the restructured program to begin in Spring 2013. To expedite the process, the Program Committee formally endorsed the restructuring of the M.F.A. in Creative Writing. The Graduate Board took the recommendation under consideration and voted unanimously to endorse the restructured M.F.A. in Creative Writing.

The Vice Provost turned next to multiyear funding for doctoral students, which the University is considering as a recruitment tool. Assistantship letters could be written to guarantee student funding for a set number of years or for the number of credits required to complete the degree. Language could also be inserted to safeguard the department in the event the student does not perform to standard. Dr. Kendrick noted positively that multiyear funding would require departments to perform an annual student review.

The Vice Provost addressed the Spring 2013 competition for doctoral dissertation and terminal master's project completion grants. He announced that 17 doctoral students will receive an \$8,000 stipend and 1 credit of tuition and 10 M.F.A. students will receive a \$4,500 stipend and 2-3 credits of tuition. This constitutes the largest pool of students funded in any given semester to date. In addition, an eleventh M.F.A. candidate will receive partial funding and two fellows will be funded in the Center for the Humanities at Temple (CHAT).

In old business, the Vice Provost followed up the October discussion of admissions criteria and processes for graduate programs with information drawn from the website of Indiana University, the institution from which incoming President Neil Theobald hails. A handout was presented to the Graduate Board. Dr. Kendrick pointed out that the Graduate School at Indiana University awards fellowships. Further noting IU's grants-in-aid, he remarked that the Graduate School formerly distributed travel funds, but that ended when the deans took exception and sought to fund their own students.

In new business, the Vice Provost announced a digital humanities workshop that is to be offered at Temple on November 27. He is working with Peter Logan at CHAT on the design of a similar workshop for domestic underrepresented students on a Graduate School grant.

Finally, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek relayed her experience about a seminar hosted by the Bill Gates Foundation to promote higher education graduation rates. The rates are currently 30% for two-year and 58% for four-year institutions – and lower at state and state-related colleges and universities. She noted this as a call for action.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:25 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Thursday, January 17, 2013, @ 2:30 p.m.