

Minutes of the Graduate Board

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

3B Conwell Hall, Main Campus

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Jasim Albandar, Joseph DuCette, Petra Goedde, Kathryn Hirsh-Pasek, Barbara Hoffman, Richard H. Immerman, Daniel Kern, James Korsh, Jagannathan Krishnan, Dan A. Liebermann, Lynn Mandarano, Swati Nagar, Deborah Nelson, Paul A. Pavlou, Vallorie J. Peridier, Peter S. Riseborough, Michael Ryan, Deborah Sheldon, Justin Yuan Shi, Dennis Silage, Paul Swann

Ex-Officio Member:

Kenneth J. Blank, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education
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:

Justin Yuan Shi motioned to approve the minutes of January 19, 2012. Joseph DuCette seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Vice Provost opened the meeting with updates. The first topic was fellowships. He noted that funding issues have not been resolved. In an effort to not overspend, it is anticipated that 30 fellowships will be awarded in Rounds 1 and 2; two awards will also be made to the Center for Humanities at Temple (CHAT). An attempt is also being made to move the Measurement and Research Center (MARC) fellowships out of the Graduate School's budget. The second topic regarded professional science master's programs. It was noted that the Provost and the Deans will handle these programs internally to ensure their fast-tracking. The third update was on credential evaluations for international students. The Vice Provost noted that despite the change in policy allowing credentialing post-admission, departments continue to send international credentials to the Graduate School for review; a two-week backlog has resulted. He stated that the breakdown in communicating this policy lies in the schools and colleges as the Deans are fully aware of this change. He explained that the Graduate School will certainly adhere to the old policy, but then believes no complaints should be voiced. He also offered that an early deadline for international applicants is an option. Finally, the Vice Provost provided an update on the workflow system for assistantship letters. Noting that sending these letters through email is not in compliance with University security procedures, a soft rollout of the new system under TUsecure is online and expected to be fully functional by early March. He also pointed out that the combined letter for 50/50 TA/RA appointments will be revised with the addition of dropdown boxes for inserting the monies for each half of the appointment.

In old business, the Vice Provost advised that a copy of the PowerPoint on graduate education in 2020 and beyond was included in the meeting handouts. He asked the Graduate Board to be mindful of the last three slides, which are blank and require the members' input on the goals for doctoral education, best practices of quality graduate programs, and common measures of successful

doctoral programs. He also noted that a copy of the Strategic Plan for the Graduate School, which was drafted in 2008, was also included as a handout. Discussion ensued, and Board members stated:

- The Strategic Plan is good, but should be revisited.
- Offering so few fellowships does not constitute a recruiting tool.
- In light of budget cuts, funding sources need to be increased. *The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education advised that schools/colleges need to set priorities and take a proactive stance; that this is the only solution when central administration is experiencing budget cuts. He suggested the “RCM Model,” short for research-centered management, in which all revenues stay with a unit and only 20% is extended to administration. Establishing professional science master’s programs constitutes one way schools/colleges can be proactive.*
- Given the state of the economy, now is not the time to be creating professional science master’s programs because potential students may not have the money to enroll.
- Expanding summer programs is an option. *The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education advised that summer sessions are typically not successful. Teachers are not interested in offering courses, and too few students want to take classes.*
- A potential market lies with those individuals who choose to change careers. *The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education advised that several universities have created a highly successful College of Professional Studies at their institutions with reported revenues of approximately \$50 million.*
- Professional science master’s programs may lead to Temple University being viewed as a trade school instead of a top-flight research institution with graduate studies. *The Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education advised that recommendations from the Graduate Board are welcome. He suggested establishing a committee to discuss the new programming.*
- Temple University may try to do everything and be everything for everyone – but it will not be successful at it. *The Vice Provost suggested that programs could undergo an approval process and then changes in array could be effected quickly in response to market changes.*
- Transparency of funding sources and how the funding is spent must be encouraged.
- Transparency of reports – such as those provided by Robert Zemsky and David Chapman – must be demanded, with these reports being released to the Graduate Board and Graduate Faculty.

This last item resulted in a motion by James Korsh to the effect that the Graduate Board believes the Graduate Faculty should be permitted to review the Chapman Report. The motion was seconded by Daniel Kern. The motion passed unanimously.

The Vice Provost advised that he would email the Graduate Board about establishing a committee to review the viability of professional science master’s programs and the formation of a College of Professional Studies.

No new business was raised.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 4:00 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on the Health Sciences Center Campus, in the Executive Conference Room on the 4th floor of the Student Faculty Center, on Thursday, March 22, 2012, @ 2:30 p.m.