



Minutes of the Graduate Board

Thursday, March 24, 2011

**Executive Conference Room
Student Faculty Center
Health Sciences Center Campus
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

William Aaronson, Jasim Albandar, Elizabeth Bolman (for Marcia Hall), Barbara Hoffman, Deborah Howe, Dan A. Liebermann, Swati Nagar, Justin Yuan Shi

Ex-Officio Member:

Kenneth J. Blank, Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education
Zebulon Kendrick, Vice Provost, Office of the Graduate School

Graduate School Staff:

Cheryl Jackson, Assistant to the Dean
Michael Toner, Associate Director for Graduate Enrollment and Data Management

Guests:

Jan Fernback, School of Communications and Theater
Nancy Morris, School of Communications and Theater

Approval of the Minutes:

Jasim Albandar motioned to approve the minutes of February 23, 2011. Swati Nagar seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was unanimously passed.

Business:

The Vice Provost opened the meeting with an announcement of the recent fellowship honors awarded to graduate students in the Tyler School of Art. Four doctoral candidates and one master's student have each earned prestigious fellowships. Four will travel abroad, including to Rome and Athens, and the fifth will visit Asheville, North Carolina.

The first matter of business was the proposal to restructure the M.A. degree in Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Mass Media in the School of Communications and Theater. Jan Fernback and Nancy Morris attended to answer questions in response to Board review. It was noted that changes had been made previously in accordance with the Program Committee's review. An electronic vote is to be conducted.

The Vice Provost returned to the previous month's discussion of credits for terminal doctoral events. Policy 02.28.13.03 states: "A doctoral student must complete a minimum of 6 s.h. of course number 9999, 'Dissertation Research,' after elevation to candidacy." While the total number of hours cannot be changed as that would constitute a restructuring and would, therefore, require approval of the Board of Trustees, the following change is proposed for Policy 02.27: "Doctoral Examinations require a minimum of 6 s.h., with at least 2 of the 6 s.h. required to be course number 9999. The remaining 4 s.h. can be a combination of the following course numbers: 9994, 9998, and

9999.” This would, in turn, require the minimum number of semester hours stipulated in Policy 02.28.13.03 for dissertation credits (9999) to be reduced to 2. Deborah Howe motioned to accept the policy as revised and to forward it to the Provost for consideration for approval. Barbara Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

An update on fellowship awards for the 2011-2012 academic year was presented. It was announced that 78 offers were extended to prospective students in 42 departments. To date, ten offers have been accepted, and six have been declined.

No old business was revisited.

In new business, the proposal to restructure the M.B.A. in the Fox School of Business and Management was introduced. A number of issues were addressed previously with regard to the proposal. Chiefly, the proposal calls for the degree to remain at 54 credits for completion, but those credits are redistributed as courses are restructured. In addition to requiring the redesigned courses, the number of electives is reduced from 15 to 12. At least one faculty member in Fox took issue with the proposal, and a separate plea for a flexible M.B.A. program was made. Arguing in a proposal brief, the faculty noted that the most prestigious business schools in the United States allow student interests to design their M.B.A. programs. Thus, the number of electives taken in those programs are typically 50% or greater than the total number of courses needed to complete the degree. The new Fox proposal reduces the number of elective credits to just 22% of the total number of credits required. William Aaronson noted that the proposal was discussed on three different levels within Fox. The Vice Provost stated that the Program Committee is scheduled to meet to discuss the following week. Barbara Hoffman motioned to vet the proposal for electronic vote following the Program Committee’s approval. Dan Liebermann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned @ 3:25 p.m.

The next Graduate Board meeting will be held on Main Campus, 3B Conwell Hall, on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, @ 2:30 p.m.