MINUTES
GRADUATE BOARD
January 9, 2017

PRESENT: C. Creech, M. Deibis, M. Finney, B. Gaydos, T. Hemphill, V. Lotfi (Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs), B. Maki, K. Schilling, M. Sreckovic (Guest), S. Turner

ABSENT: A. Ojelabi, S. Selig (meeting conflict)

1. Minutes from November 28, 2016 were approved with no changes.

2. Proposal for Master of Arts in Inclusive Education
   ▪ M. Sreckovic was present to respond to the Board’s questions and suggestions from the 11/14/16 meeting.
   ▪ There was discussion regarding the needs assessment and potential demand for the program. Since it is an online program, recruitment efforts could be national as opposed to local. The program would consider increasing the cohort size if there is increased demand.
   ▪ The Board suggested that the program consider allowing students to admit two times per year, but for now it is one time per year.
   ▪ The Board also suggested that the program consider allowing a student to take one course per term and complete the degree in four years instead of two.
   ▪ There was discussion about the program being a non-licensure program – meaning that it doesn’t lead to licensure or endorsement. However, the program advised that it may be feasible to offer a certificate after the completion of 21 credits.
   ▪ The program is asynchronous but plans to require at least one synchronous session per term.
   ▪ The Board reviewed the budget and suggested that they consider allocating additional funds to the marketing budget. The Board noted that there is a strong commitment by the department for this program as one full-time faculty is expected to be added in year 1, along with a Lecturer III in year 2.
   ▪ The Board voted unanimously to approve the proposal for the Master of Arts in Inclusive Education.
   ▪ The proposal will now be forwarded to the Provost for its next approval.

3. Proposal for English Proficiency Pathway Program
   ▪ B. Maki presented a proposal to establish a Pathway Program for international students to non-Rackham programs that meet academic admission criteria but who do not meet the minimum university English proficiency requirements.
   ▪ A pathway program must have stated standards for admission that a student must meet before the designated school official (DSO) issues a Form I-20 for enrollment in the program.
If approved, students admitted to the Pathway Program would get conditional admission and are required to enroll in a minimum of one ELP course in each term and are permitted to concurrently take up to two academic courses per term. Conditional students may enroll for up to two semesters in the Pathway Program until proficiency is reach. If proficiency is not reached after two semesters, admission to the Pathway Program is revoked.

Once satisfactory proficiency in English has been demonstrated, the conditional status will be removed and a new Form I-20 will be issued.

The proposal was already introduced to the Graduate Programs Directors during the Fall 2016 meeting, and they voiced their support for the proposal.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Pathway Program proposal. The changes would take effect for Fall 2017.

4. Candidacy Certificate for Doctoral Candidates
   - There was discussion about the desire to provide students in the PT PhD and EdD programs a Candidacy Certificate when they reach the candidacy phase of their degree program. This is a practice that is already followed at Rackham and many other institutions and is a public recognition of their accomplishments.
   - Currently, the candidacy phase is already noted by the Registrar on a student’s transcript.
   - The Board voted unanimously to provide a Candidacy Certificate to students in the PT PhD and EdD programs only. (The Graduate Programs office will work with each department to determine specific language for each Candidacy Certificate.)
   - Additional research may be conducted to determine if a certificate is appropriate for other professional doctoral programs.

5. Matters Arising
   - There were no matters arising.

Next meeting: 1/23/17 @ 2:00pm in the Graduate Programs Conference Room