



Graduate Program Directory Assembly

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2020

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Madison Union Ballroom

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 14, 2020, Graduate Council meeting minutes were unanimously approved viva voce.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Third Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition**

Laura Ryman announced that the Three-Minute Thesis in its third year hosted the largest competition to date with 17 registered participants. Briana Craig, Psychological Sciences, M.A. graduate student was the 1st place winner, for her presentation on, "*Propensity Score Matching and Generalized Boosted Modeling in the Context of Model Misspecification*"; Christine Verdream, Biology, M.S., was the 2nd Place winner and was also voted the People's Choice Winner for her presentation on "*Habitat Utilization and Impact of Flooding on James spinymussel (Parvaspina collina) Populations in Virginia Streams*", and a tied vote for 3rd Place went to Ruth Bowers-Sword, Biology, M.S. for her presentation on "*Assessing hunting pressures and the population status of Preuss's red colobus, Piliocolobus preussi, and other primates in the Ebo-Makombe-Ndokbou forest, Comeroon*", and to Alexander Brooks for his presentation on "*Under the Cover of Lightness: How Mixed-Race Americans Navigated the Racial Codes of Antebellum America*". Ms. Ryman thank everyone who was able to attend and extended a special thank you to the judges.

2. **Dean's Search**

John Burgess announced that a TGS Dean's Search will be conducted in Fall 2020.

3. **TGS Policy and Procedures Revisions**

John Burgess stated that the Graduate Council Executive Committee project for this year was to review and revise TGS Policy and Procedures. Mr. Burgess shared that great progress had been made with a goal to distribute final revisions, excluding the policies on Certificate programs, at the March 19, 2020, Graduate Council Meeting. Mr. Burgess stated that a mark-up version and a clean version of the Working Policies document dated 02.6.20 were included in the electronic meeting materials distributed February 11, 2020, and encouraged the membership to review the suggested revisions.

4. **National Institution Status:**

John Burgess shared that the JMU Senior Leadership Team was reviewing the National Institution Status. The University is interested in the R2 Category, which is Doctoral Degrees conferred with strong research components. Mr. Burgess stated that Michael Stoloff had worked with the Carnegie Institution and the Office of Institutional Research to review JMU's current Carnegie classification and strategies to achieve the R2 status, if approved by Senior Leadership, through the IPEDS reporting tool.

5. **Program Director Survey:**

John Burgess stated that Michael Stoloff and Karris Atkins are working on a Graduate Program Director Compensation Survey to collect information on how program directors are compensated for their graduate work and activities. Ms. Atkins will distribute the finalized survey. A distribution date was not provided.



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6. Budget Initiatives

John Burgess informed the Graduate Council that funding approval for budget initiatives requests submitted for Graduate Assistantship positions would likely be decided in September at the earliest.

7. Annual Program Director Meetings

Lynette Michael shared that several emails had been sent to Program Directors regarding the Annual Program Director Meeting. Ms. Michael stated the meetings would not be required this year. If a program wanted to meet with Lynette Michael regarding Admissions questions, Cheryl Doss for Recruitment and Marketing communication, or Boris Escalona Berbetty for Student Financial support inquiries that they should contact Sheree Will to schedule an appointment.

8. Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Michael Facey shared activities that the GSA have sponsored or actively participated in to date during the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Improved "Grad N Go" and Campus Kitchen resources addressing food insecurities in the community.
- Hosted State wide GSA Round table in November 2020. Some institutions that participated were Virginia Tech, George Masson University, Longwood University, Norfolk State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and William & Mary)
- Volunteered at JMU's Graduate School Fair hosted by TGS
- Attended Virginia Graduate Education Day at the University of Virginia
- Coordinated numerous social events throughout the community for graduate students
- Awarded professional development grants for graduate students
- Partnered with "The Reserve" to make an official off-campus housing option for Graduate Students
- Sponsored 2020 Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition
- Created and maintained presence Instagram and Facebook social networks
- Multiple executive members served on the Library Advisory Board
- Expanded GSA Executive Board to include a Social Chair position

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. State of Graduate Education

John Burgess stated that JMU Senior Leadership is working to obtain National Institution status through the Carnegie Institute that would classify JMU as Doctoral University with High Research Activity in 2022. The Graduate Council membership discussed how the new classification would impact JMU and opportunities or challenges that may accompany the new classification surrounding curriculum. Mr. Burgess shared that TGS does not drive curriculum but provides support to the programs around the curriculums that they build.

2. Open Discussion

John Burgess asked the Graduate Council to think about ways to advance JMU graduate programs through increased visibility and collaborative strategies for discussion at the March 19th Graduate Council meeting.