



Graduate Council

Minutes

1/16/2014

*Supporting, facilitating and promoting excellence in lifelong education
through graduate programs of distinction, innovative outreach programs and a diverse student body.*

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Reid Linn, Melissa Alemán, Lynette Michael, Deborah Bandalos (Assessment and Measurement), Pete Bsumek (Communication & Advocacy), Michael Busing (Business Administration), Natasha DuMerville (Grad. Student Rep.), Lennie Echterling (Counseling & Supervision; Clinical Mental Health Counseling), Brian Flota (Libraries & Ed. Tech), Teresa Gonzalez (Academic Affairs), David “AJ” Good (Grad. Student Rep), Janet Gloeckner (Health Science), Andrea Knopp (Nursing), Ayasakanta Rout (Communication Science & Disorders), Gerald Weniger (Physician Assistant Studies), Roshna Wunderlich (Biology), Michael Klein (WRTC), Diane Wilcox (Adult Ed/HDR), John Scherpereel (Political Science – EUPS), Karen Ford (Strategic Leadership), Billy VanDenburg (Accounting), Danette Bronaugh (Exceptional Education), Ming Ivory (ISAT), Florian Bucholz (Computer Science), Hossain Heydari (Computer Science – Information Sec.), Robin Anderson (Graduate Psychology), Jeff Loveland (Occupational Therapy), Michael Hall (Psychological Sciences), Nick Swartz (Public Administration),

Guests: Nick Swayne (4-VA), Janet Smith (Public Affairs), Michael Stoloff (CHBS), Peggy Schaeffer (College of Education), Janet Smith (University Communications)

Programs not represented: Art & Art History, Counseling and Supervision/Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Clinical & School Psychology, CSPA, Education, English, History, Kinesiology, Mathematics Education, Music, School Psychology

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- JMU Communications and Marketing welcomes news items (including activities and projects) as well as stories about graduate programs or graduate (Masters, Ed.S, or Doctoral) students and faculty. You may **submit story ideas to Janet Smith (smithjl@jmu.edu), who serves as the office’s liaison to the Graduate Council.**
- Mike Busing announced that JMU’s online Information Security MBA program was recently ranked #9 in the nation (up from #49). The ranking involved 172 other institutions, and is based on criteria such as faculty quality, student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation and student services and technology.
- Reid stated that JMU now has over ten nationally recognized graduate programs.
- Ming Ivory announced that undergraduate students enrolled in an agricultural policy course with ISAT will be visiting Cargill Inc. in Dayton; the trip is also open to graduate students.
- Reid announced that after 29 years at JMU, he will be retiring as Dean of the Graduate School effective July 1. Reid thanked all graduate programs and directors for helping “crystallize” a JMU graduate community that has grown to over 1,800 students.
 - Jeff Loveland and several other directors commented on Reid’s leadership and thanked him for his service.

REPORTS

CAP – Mike Busing, Nick Swartz, and Natasha DuMerville
No Report

A-Team – Melissa Aleman
No Report

C&I – Melissa Aleman
No Report

Honor Council – Nancy Nichols
No Report

GSA – AJ Good

AJ reported that the GSA is working on three fronts to sustain the momentum built up last semester:

- Exploring all our available options with respect to funding opportunities and gaining a sustained budget
- Working to build up GSA "brand awareness" with outreach and engagement activities that include graduate student tours and panels, and having a volunteer team for "The Big Event" in April
- And actively recruiting members for next year to ensure institutional memory.

PRESENTATION

4-VA – Nick Swayne

Nick Swayne, Director of 4-VA and Interim Director of the Education Support Center at JMU, presented on 4-VA at JMU. 4-VA is a consortium of four universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia that are working together to realize Virginia's goals for higher education. Specifically, universities are connecting students with instructors at other institutions through the use of telecommunications in hopes of increasing access, reducing cost and enhancing the quality of education in Virginia.

4-VA allows courses at one institution to be offered at others across the state. Nick stated that 4-VA has been a part of 26 research grants, focused mainly in STEM education but open to all disciplines. As 4-VA continues to grow at JMU, the university looks forward to utilize space in the "Ice-House" building. This will create a central location for various programs and students to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by 4-VA.

Nick encouraged program directors to consider making partnerships with 4-VA, noting that course redesign is a possibility and that there are funding opportunities to support initiatives.

- Questions were raised about the representation of the humanities and liberal arts in 4-VA.
 - Some representation is present, but 4-VA is more of a reflection of who receives funding grants (typically STEM areas).
 - JMU has been exploring the feasibility of expanding STEM education to include business courses, essentially creating degrees composed of coursework from several institutions.
- Reid encouraged the council to explore possibilities of 4-VA and telecommunications.

Remaining 2013-14 Meeting Dates:

Thursday, February 13, 2014 - Taylor 404, 2:00-3:30pm

No March Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2014 – Taylor 306, 2:00-3:30pm

Friday, May 16, 2014 (Retreat) – Montpelier Room, East Campus Dining Hall, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.