



# Graduate Council

## Minutes

11/14/13

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

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### ATTENDANCE

**Members Present:** Reid Linn, Melissa Alemàn, 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), Patty Hale (Nursing), Nicholas Luden (Kinesiology), Jon Miles (ISAT), Ayasakanta Rout (Communication Science & Disorders), Mary Jean Speare (Music), Anthony Tongen (Mathematics Education), Gerald Weniger (Physician Assistant Studies), Roshna Wunderlich (Biology), Josh Bacon (CSPA), Jim Zimmerman (WRTC), Diane Wilcox (Adult Ed/HDR), John Scherpereel (Political Science – EUPS), Tammy Gilligan (School Psychology), Karen Ford (Strategic Leadership), Kaitlin Ireland (Accounting), Danette Bronaugh (Exceptional Education).

**Guests:** Jennifer Coffman (Office of International Programs), Michael Stoloff (CHBS), Peggy Schaeffer (College of Education), Janet Smith (Public Affairs), Lee Sternberger (Office of International Programs), Jane Thall (Learning, Technology and Leadership Education)

**Programs not represented:** Art & Art History, Assessment & Measurement, Psychological Sciences, Clinical and School Psychology, Computer Science, Computer Science – Info. Sec., English, Education, Exceptional Education, Graduate Psychology, History, Occupational Therapy, Public Administration, ISAT.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of September 12, 2013 and October 10, 2013 were approved by acclamation with no revisions.

### 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](mailto:smithjl@jmu.edu))**, who serves as the office’s liaison to the Graduate Council.

Melissa asked program representatives to send program announcements to TGS for use in communications.

- Reid reminded the council that TGS does offer some support for graduate student research and travel stipends. Students interested in applying for travel funding should email Reid with a description of their conference presentation(s) and an outline of anticipated expenses. If travel support is offered, students are asked to send project summaries, pictures, and stories of those involved to TGS to publicize.

Nicholas Luden inquired about general funding for graduate students’ professional development. Reid described the parameters of using graduate school resources to fund travel stipends. TGS has no such funds in the operating budget for students however, TGS will try to offer some support in partnership with a student’s department to assist in attending conferences where the student has been selected to make a professional presentation.

4. **Reports:**  
**CAP** – Mike Busing, Nick Swartz, and Natasha DuMerville  
No report

**A-Team** – Melissa Aleman  
No Report

**C&I** – Melissa Aleman

- Reminder for those working on curriculum development (new courses and modifications; program modifications) to notify the graduate program directors of those programs that are potentially impacted by the curriculum changes early in the process of development. This is particularly important if the curriculum development may impact resource-related issues (e.g. a course will be proposed as an elective in a program).

**Honor Council** – Nancy Nichols (Kaitlin Ireland)  
No report

5. **GSA Report** – AJ Good

The GSA reported that a Front End Budget was submitted, on November 6<sup>th</sup> and is pending approval. During the interim, AJ stated that the GSA is exploring other avenues of funding.

AJ reported that a GSA meeting was held on November 3rd, 2013, and mainly focused on committee structure and developing the following:

- Graduate Services, which will focus on social events, prospective student tours, scholarship and awards for graduate students
- Outreach and Engagement, having the responsibility of communicating campus resources, pursuing membership recruitment, and engaging the community
- Organizational Development, ensuring the effective use of GSA resources to achieve goals

AJ stated the committees will reconvene in the coming weeks with the GSA Executive Council to target specific projects for the spring semester. Those projects include: social events, presentations, big events participation, prospective graduate student panels, scholarship awards, and Impact Awards.

AJ added that GSA visibility on campus is increasing, and that the GSA Cascade webpage is almost complete. This page will feature a GSA online forum, meeting minutes archive, as well as current news and events about the GSA and graduate education/social life at JMU.

Reid encouraged those present to visit the GSA Facebook page, and requested that they “like” it.

6. **International Program Opportunities** – Lee Sternberger and Jennifer Coffman, Office of International Programs.

Lee opened by stating a desire to have a very open, organic conversation about graduate programs in an international context at JMU. She added that dialogue for a university-wide international strategic plan is developing. It was noted that JMU is nationally ranked in the number of undergraduate students that study abroad and applications have increased 25%; this is coupled with a larger international student presence on campus.

Currently, International Programs provides \$80,000 for study abroad and the provision of resources for international students.-Lee asked the Graduate Council how the university might move forward to increase support and funding. Lee expanded on the topic, saying that the Office of International Programs is forming a council to represent the needs of students, the desire-for diverse international programming, and to serve

as the connection to graduate programs. The council is expected to be formed by spring and will seek to connect students with expanding study abroad opportunities in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Lee reviewed JMU's participation in the International Network of Universities (INU), a small group of universities with strategic partnerships that offer the potential for future student and faculty exchanges, student shadowing opportunities in international universities, potential online programming and discussion opportunities. INU includes partnerships with universities in Germany, Japan, Australia and Indonesia among others.

In closing, Lee stated that the Office of International Programs (OIP) is interested in graduate students participating in international research. To facilitate this endeavor, OIP offers funding to graduate students traveling abroad and domestically if presenting on international topics. OIP desires to work with existing programs, avoid duplicative support, and form partnerships with other university organizations such as the Graduate Student Association. In addition, OIP has developed a JMU database for international opportunities and is seeking to develop online courses.

Melissa asked if OIP provided grant development services. Lee responded in the affirmative, citing grant development opportunities for students, faculty, and administrators. She specifically noted the Administrators Fulbright Grant and International Network of University Grant.

Pete Bsumek inquired about attracting visiting scholars. Lee stated that OIP advocates faculty exchange and supports visiting scholars.

7. **M.Ed. Program Revisions in Learning, Technology and Leadership Education:  
New Concentration in Spanish Language and Culture for Educators  
Dual Degree with the University of Salamanca** – Peggy Shaeffer, Jane Thall, and Diane Wilcox, College of Education

Peggy Shaeffer, Jane Thall and Diane Wilcox presented a new concentration to be added to the M.Ed. in Learning, Technology and Leadership Education that will include a dual degree with the University of Salamanca. The presentation addressed the new M.Ed. concentration in Spanish Language and Cultures, which will focus on exploring effective pedagogy relating to the Spanish language.

The presentation noted that related administrative processes with the concentration will be maintained at JMU, with the M.Ed. Director and Program Coordinator reviewing all applications and the Office of International Programs overseeing the budget. Further, the online component of this concentration will allow for greater flexibility. The program will combine distance learning, and on-campus coursework at both JMU and the University of Salamanca, Spain.

8. **The Engaged University**

Reid posed a question to the Graduate Council, "What does being the model of the engaged university mean? What are some examples of that [in graduate education at JMU]... what is the evidence?"

The council responded in turn with several examples (not an exhaustive list):

- Mike Busing (Business) :group of students participated in the Google challenge, winning money for the SPCA, getting out in the community and doing charitable work.
- Peggy Shaeffer (College of Education): Our faculty also partnered with other agencies and businesses to assess what impact we are having on the communities where we are engaged. Measureable through improved standardized test scores.
- Ayasakanta Rout (Speech Pathology): Graduate Students work with patients in the community. We also visit the Virginia Special Olympics to provide services. Faculty and students also present research at national and regional conferences.

- Tammy Gilligan (School Psych): Doing things in schools in the community to provide services to students, families, and instructors. Work with low socio-economic families in the community.
- Karen Ford (SSLS): Working in the community with four agencies, providing assessment and evaluation, and consultation to help accomplish agency goals and outcomes.
- Patty Hale (Nursing): Practice a day or evening a week and volunteer at the free clinic, or primary care clinics. Lend support to local churches in the form of health services to our homeless populations.
- Lennie Echterling (Counseling & Supervision): 1000 hours to clinical agencies and psychiatric hospitals. Our students sponsor once a year, “Walk for Family,” a suicide coping and prevention event. Award winning students/faculty.
- Michael Stoloff (CHBS): Considering the number of those that are actually engaged, CHBS have as part of their required curriculum, 100% of students have that experience or required research experience. All of those are engaged activities. Consider the percentage of those with mandatory curriculum to measure the level of engagement at JMU.
- Gerald Weniger (Physician Assistant studies): Involved in helping the community through “Ask a PA night” at the Our Community Place, developed through Paul Ambrose Scholar; Students participate in a lobby day.
- Reid: Think about your graduate students; raise your hand if your students are engaged as part of the curriculum. \*Unanimous\*
- Michele Estes (Educational Technology) – Students are involved in creating technical solutions to problems in the community, such as assisting the HARTS (Homeless Shelter) creating a curriculum for a volunteer base with little access to computers.
- Jon Miles (ISAT) - Working on projects with wind energy deployment, residences to schools, senior capstones, graduate work, community development projects, helping the land owners, disseminating zoning information for community members.
- Lennie Echterling interjected that JMU Graduate Education is the epitome of engagement.

Reid requested program directors to submit a bulleted list of engagement activities in which their programs are involved. Reid reiterated that we are an engaged university; a reason a lot of us are here [at JMU].

**Remaining 2012-13 Meeting Dates:**

No meeting in December

Thursday, January 16, 2014 - Taylor 404, 2:00-3:30pm

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.