



Graduate Council

Minutes

Rescheduled: 03/06/14

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

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Melissa Alemàn, Lynette Michael, Pete Bsumek (Communication & Advocacy), Michael Busing (Business Administration), Brian Flota (Libraries & Ed. Tech), Teresa Gonzalez (Academic Affairs), David “AJ” Good (Grad. Student Rep), Janet Gloeckner (Health Science), Patty Hale (Nursing), Ayasakanta Rout (Communication Science & Disorders), Mary Jean Speare (Music), Judy Kidd (Mathematics Education), Christine May (Biology), Michael Klein (WRTC), Diane Wilcox (Adult Ed/HDR), John Scherpereel (Political Science – EUPS), Margaret Sloan (Strategic Leadership), Karin Tollefson (Art & Art History), Matthew Reborn (English), Robin Anderson (Graduate Psychology, Michael Hall (Psych. Sciences).

Guests: A.J. Morey (Cross-Disciplinary Studies), Kristi Shackelford (Catalog), Bill VanDenburg (College of Business), Michael Stoloff (CHBS), Janet Smith (Public Affairs), Ben Carr (Sports & Rec.), Julie Carr (Sports & Rec.), David Brakke (College of Science & Mathematics), Jim Shaeffer (Outreach & Engagement).

Programs not represented: Accounting, Assessment & Measurement, Psychological Sciences, Clinical and School Psychology, CSPA, Computer Science, Computer Science – Info. Sec., Counseling & Supervision, Education, Exceptional Education, History, ISAT, Kinesiology, Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant Studies, Public Administration, School Psych.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of November 14, 2013 and January 16, 2014 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), 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 and thanked directors for their cooperation and willingness to meet with TGS intern, Kiara Mauro.

- Melissa announced the first annual “Graduate Education Week,” March 28th – April 4th, 2014. The events were announced as follows:

Friday, March 28th – Graduate Student Life Panel and Information Session

Tuesday, April 1st – Graduate Student Life Panel

Wednesday, April 2nd – Professional Networking Event: “Creating a Digital Professional Presence”

Thursday, April 3rd – Professional Development Event: “Best Practices in Professional Presentations”

Friday, April 4th – Faculty Development Event: “Teaching Adult Learners”

Friday, April 4th – Social Event: Graduate Student and Faculty Happy Hour at Ruby’s

- Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education, 36th Annual Summer Institute on College Teaching, June 1-5, 2014. <http://vtc.odu.edu/development/summerInstitute.html>
- Reminder: Graduate Program Marketing Proposals due Friday, March 7

4. **Reports:**

CAP – Mike Busing

- The CAP heard a presentation about the proposed Independent Scholars Major. After discussion, the Graduate Council concluded that students affiliated with the Independent Scholars Major would be excellent prospects for various graduate programs at JMU.

A-Team – Melissa Aleman

- Informational item clarifying that university closures due to inclement weather include on-line courses. Please notify those within your respective programs that [JMU's inclement weather policy](#) requires instructors to include a policy for closures, including online course syllabi. Instructors wishing to hold class virtually when the University is closed may do so, however this policy must be clearly stated in the syllabus at the beginning of each semester.

C&I – Melissa Aleman

- Update was provided on the Cross-College Curriculum Committee Process and its role in graduate program curriculum development. Melissa and A.J. Morey will be working together to support the review processes for graduate program proposals that cut across academic units/colleges.

Honor Council – Report provided by AJ Good

- The Honor Council is in the process of reforming procedures as it pertains to graduate student honor code violations and is seeking graduate students to serve on hearing panels. The Graduate Student Association has identified two students willing to serve for the upcoming year. Directors are encouraged to identify students in their program willing to serve in the future.

5. **GSA Report** – AJ Good

AJ thanked all program directors and faculty that have forwarded prior GSA e-mails to their graduate students. The GSA has had numerous responses to the graduate life student survey and impact awards, in addition to having great attendance at the last GSA social event on February 28th.

The GSA would appreciate the continued support of program directors in forwarding GSA information. Two to three future emails will be regarding applications for GSA executive council, involvement of graduate students in the Big Event, and the distribution of an e-flyer for an April GSA Social Event on April 4th to wrap up “Graduate Education Week.” AJ mentioned the fact that students enjoy faculty interaction at such events and encouraged all faculty members to join!

The Graduate Community Picnic date was announced and is scheduled for May 1st, 4:30 – 6:30 at the Grace Street House Lawn. AJ stated the picnic will wrap up another year of graduate education at JMU, recognize Impact Award recipients, and recognize Reid Linn’s retirement.

6. **Proposal of New Program: Master of Science, Sports and Recreation Leadership** – Ben Carr, Sports & Recreation Leadership

Ben Carr led a presentation for the program proposal for the M.S. in Sports & Recreation Leadership (SRL). The program was previously a concentration in the Kinesiology graduate program in the College of Health and Behavioral Studies and now seeks to be housed in the School of Hospitality and Sports Recreation Management (SHSRM) in the College of Business. The presentation highlighted the history of the program and housing the graduate program in SHSRM is important to the future of the program. The presentation highlighted the accomplishments and career paths of SRL, the updated program requirements, and the faculty teaching in the program and their institutional affiliation with SHSRM.

The program proposal was approved via e-vote.

7. **M.A. Program Revisions in Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication** – Michael Klein, WRTC

Michael Klein updated the council on changes to the WRTC Master's program, reporting that the revised curriculum is now more clearly in alignment with faculty strengths and the mission of the newly combined School. The elimination of the two concentrations streamlines the program. At this point WRTC will only offer the Master of Arts; the Master of Science offering is still under discussion but will not be offered at this time.

The program proposal was approved via e-vote.

8. **Bluff Point Acquisition by JMU** – David Brakke (Science and Mathematics) & Jim Shaeffer (Outreach & Engagement)

David Brakke and Jim Shaeffer addressed the council on the donation of 37 acres of land to JMU from JMU alumni Tom Dingedine. The parcel is located in the Northern Neck of Virginia at Bluff Point, and is to be utilized by students and faculty for a variety of scholarship and teaching purposes. Adjacent to the 37 acres, is an 860-acre parcel that was placed in a conservation easement held by the North American Land Trust. The two areas combined provide JMU with “the opportunity to conduct research and teaching exercises in its pine forests and saltwater marshes neighboring the Chesapeake Bay.”

Drs. Brakke and Shaeffer also stated that a dwelling (The Galway House) is located on the property, and currently has four bedrooms, one classroom (20 people), a living room, bathroom. While JMU does not own this property, we have oversight of the scheduling of the house and are able to use it for short-term purposes, for faculty and staff retreats, small class trips, and other educational purposes. Currently, Internet access is available but cell phone service can be limited depending on your mobile provider.

The presentation sought to raise awareness and encourage utilization of the space by the graduate school community, citing support as a necessary component to move the project forward. Melissa echoed the sentiments of David and Jim in saying that Bluff Point offers great potential for innovative uses by graduate students and faculty across our programs, as well as an opportunity for unique collaborations across campus.

For potential site-visits and more information, contact David Brakke (brakkedf@jmu.edu).

Remaining 2013-2014 Meeting Dates:

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.