



# Graduate Council

## Minutes

10/10/13

*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, Robin Anderson (Graduate Psychology), Deborah Bandalos (Assessment and Measurement), Johnathan Miles (ISAT), Dannette Bronaugh (Exceptional Education), Lori Britt (Communication & Advocacy), Michael Busing (Business Administration), David Dillard (History), Natasha DuMerville (Grad. Student Rep.), Lennie Echterling (Counseling & Supervision; Clinical Mental Health Counseling), Brian Flota (Libraries & Ed. Tech), Margaret Sloan (Strategic Leadership), Teresa Gonzalez (Academic Affairs), David "AJ" Good (Grad. Student Rep), Janet Gloeckner (Health Science), Patty Hale (Nursing), Michael Hall (Psychological Sciences), Gregg Henriques (Clinical and School Psychology), Hossain Heydari (Computer Science -Info. Sec.), Nicholas Luden (Kinesiology), Scott Lunsford (Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication), Holly McCartney (Education), Matthew Reborn (English), Ayasakanta Rout (Communication Science & Disorders), Mary Jean Speare (Music), Kathy Schwartz (Art & Art History), William VanDenburg (Accounting), Anthony Tongen (Mathematics Education), Jeff Loveland (Occupational Therapy), Gerald Weniger (Physician Assistant Studies),

**Guests:** Larry Burton (WRTC), Ralph Cohen (WRTC), Kristi Shackelford (Catalog), Peggy Shaeffer (COE), Michael Stoloff (CHBS), Janet Smith (Public Affairs).

**Programs not represented:** School Psychology, Political Science (EUPS), Computer Science-Information Security, Biology, College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA), Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD), Computer Science, History, and Public Administration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Graduate School Brochure and Program Descriptions are available** upon request for recruiting.
- **All course/program requests to take effect Summer or Fall 2014 must be submitted by April 10<sup>th</sup> – note this is a revised deadline (formerly February). Catalog copy for each graduate program must be reviewed, revised, and submitted to Kristi Shackelford no later than May 5.**
- **Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Awards – Call for Nominations**
  - Outstanding Mentor Award (November, 2013)
  - Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education (November, 2013)
  - Master's Thesis Award includes two categories (1) Life Sciences; and (2) Social Science, Business, and Education (November 18, 2013)
  - ETD Master's Thesis Award for Innovative Application of Technology to Scholarship in a Master's Thesis (November 18 2013)
- 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.**

### REPORTS

**CAP** – Mike Busing, Nick Swartz, and Natasha DuMerville - No Report (Committee had not yet met)

### **A-Team** – Melissa Aleman

The A-Team has heard numerous presentations and participated in discussions on initiatives largely directed at undergraduate students, such as JMU Teach, Madison Advising Peers, the Council of Undergraduate Research's biennial meeting, and first year orientation.

Drs. Maggie Kyger and Peggy Shaeffer gave a presentation responding to the ratings published by the National Council Teacher Quality that were released in June. In short, their presentation revealed the methodology of the NCTQ as problematic and flawed, and thus the ratings of education programs themselves to be highly problematic.

The Madison Teaching Fellows presented their initiative "Here to Help" – which provides periodic training sessions for faculty (and graduate students interacting with students) to orient them to the range of campus resources available to students in distress or crisis, particularly as it relates to alcohol abuse. You can learn more about H2H here: <http://www.jmu.edu/cfi/academic-culture/here-to-help.shtml>

The new final exam schedule for Spring 2014 was announced. The last date for class meetings will be Thursday, May 1 and all exams will be completed by 12:30 pm on Thursday, May 8 so that campus residents can move out before graduate commencement activities begin on Friday morning. The final exam schedule can be found here: [http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/wm\\_library/1141\\_examsschedule.pdf](http://www.jmu.edu/registrar/wm_library/1141_examsschedule.pdf)

### **C&I** – Melissa Aleman

No report (Committee had not yet met)

### **Honor Council** – Nancy Nichols

No report (Committee had not yet met)

### **GSA Report** – AJ Good

The GSA reported that the first meeting was held on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 4:00 pm at Taylor 302. The meeting included representatives from across various programs and the GSA executive council. AJ encouraged program directors to choose graduate student program representatives, if they had not done so already.

AJ requested program directors to circulate an e-mail to their students regarding a current voter registration initiative, DukesVote! DukesVote! is a student-led initiative that is being aided by the GSA and is aimed at getting more JMU students to vote. He went on to state that as a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives, it is important for us at JMU to help our students get involved in the political process.

AJ also added that the GSA is making the transition to Cascade platform, and will have an operational webpage site during November. The site will include the monthly meeting minutes, which will permit all graduate students to access information regarding GSA activities. During the interim, he encouraged the utilization of GSA social media outlets as a means of communication.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Cohen Center for the Study of Technological Humanism** – Larry Burton and Ralph Cohen

- Dr. Larry Burton, director of The Cohen Center and Professor of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, and Dr. Ralph Cohen, Provost's Distinguished Professor in the School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication, presented information about the new Cohen Center for Technological Humanism and invited faculty and student participation in its formation.
  - The Cohen Center's focus is on graduate education at JMU. The establishment of the Cohen Center was proposed in late May of 2013, and approved September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The center is a multidisciplinary space and aims to involve graduate faculty from all departments throughout the university.

- One of the main goals of the Cohen Center is to promote communication across the disciplines at JMU by bringing together faculty and graduate students to address and research a wide variety of problems and questions. The focus of the center is on technological humanism, which as its premise explores the ways in which technologies (anything human-made) impact and transform how humans relate with one another.
- The Center will support visiting scholars, faculty and student fellowships and plans to be open Fall 2014. Drs. Burton and Cohen invite the graduate faculty to bring forward ideas for workshops, short courses, and visiting scholars, as well as other ways that the center might support multidisciplinary inquiry.
- Following the presentation, Drs. Burton and Cohen addressed questions from the council. The following points were clarified during the discussion:
  - The Cohen Center will be housed on the third floor of Harrison Hall and will include administrative offices, meeting space and a library.
  - \$500,000 is designated for the opening of the Cohen Center
  - The Cohen Center envisions a structure that includes graduate students, fellows, and faculty fellows. An advisory board will be formed that will include members of the university faculty and external stakeholders. Initial funding will support visiting scholar lectures/workshops, faculty release from teaching, and assistance to graduate students on multidisciplinary projects.
  - Research and inquiry-based discussions at The Cohen Center will be faculty and student driven and may address any problems related to human behavior. All inquiry will focus on bringing multidisciplinary perspectives and methodologies to bear on the study of human behavior/technology.
  - Drs. Burton and Cohen invite faculty and student participation in driving the major projects of The Cohen Center and seek input on how the center might evolve.

The email address for the Cohen Center is [cohencenter@jmu.edu](mailto:cohencenter@jmu.edu)

The email address for Larry Burton is [burtonlw@jmu.edu](mailto:burtonlw@jmu.edu)

### **May Commencement – Reid (follow-up)**

Reid addressed concerns raised at the September Graduate Council meeting about the Friday scheduling of The Graduate School commencement. He indicated that President Alger decided to change the date and time of May commencement so that the main ceremony would be inclusive of everyone. The Graduate Ceremony will be held at 10:00 am on Friday morning, followed by the main university commencement in the afternoon. The individual ceremonies for colleges will be held on Saturday.

### **Graduate Fairs:**

TGS will attend the following upcoming graduate recruitment fairs:

Thursday, October 17 – Penn State (Tentative)

Friday, November 8 – HBCU Career Development/Grad Fair

### **Remaining 2012-13 Meeting Dates:**

Thursday, November 14, 2013- Taylor 404, 2:00-3:30pm

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.