



Graduate Council

Meeting Minutes

The Cohen Center, Wilson Hall 107

February 11, 2016

2:00-3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Jie Chen (The Graduate School), Melissa Aleman (The Graduate School), Lynette Michael (The Graduate School), Michael Stoloff (The Graduate School), Marilou Johnson (Academic Affairs), Diane Wilcox (Adult Ed/HRD), Christine May (Biology), Ken Critchfield (Clinical and School Psychology), Chris Arndt (College of Arts & Letters), Tisha McCoy-Ntiamoah (College of Business), Pete Bsumek (Communication & Advocacy), Hossain Heydari (Computer Science –Information Security), Debbie Sturm (Counseling & Supervision/Clinical Mental Health Counseling/School Counseling), Dani Bronaugh (Exceptional Education), Robin Anderson (Graduate Psychology), Caitlin Mundy (Student Representative), Alyssa Welch (GSA President), Brian Flota (Libraries & Educational Technologies), Linda Hulton (Nursing), Jerry Weniger (Physician Assistant Studies), John Scherpereel (Political Science, EUPS), Jeff Dyche (Psychological Sciences), Fred Mayhew (Public Administration), Tammy Gilligan (School Psychology), Karen Ford (Strategic Leadership), Michael Klein (Writing Rhetoric & Technical Communication), Janet Smith (University Communications)

Guests: Larry Burton (Cohen Center), Rick Larson (Human Resources, Training & Performance), Alys Sink (Cohen Center), Emily Kohl (Cohen Center), Sara Harper (The Graduate School), Mike Busing (College of Business), Karin Tollefson (Art & Art History)

1. Approval of minutes

Correction per Brian Flota: Debbie Pugh spelling correction from Pughe
Dani Bronaugh moved to approve the January meeting minutes. John Scherpereel moved to second the motion. Last months' minutes were approved by the Council.

2. Announcements & Reports

Jie explained the relationship between TGS and the Cohen Center to the group, pointing out that there is collaboration on projects, and shared strategies to promote graduate education. The Graduate School supports the Cohen Center's initiatives and activities.

Jie introduced Larry Burton, Director of the Cohen Center, and Larry welcomed the Graduate Council to the Cohen Center.

Ralph Cohen was unable to attend the meeting. Larry described Mr. Cohen's vision for the center, which is to enrich graduate studies at JMU by drawing on multiple disciplines and offering opportunities that do not exist in the current curriculum. One way that Ralph Cohen seeks to enrich graduate studies is through the Speaker Series, by bringing in scholars who model multidisciplinary scholarship. This is important for the future of graduate studies.

Larry extended an offer to visit Grad Council members' offices, to begin brainstorming and collaborating to design activities. He invited Graduate Council to use the Wilson 107 space, and asked for nominations of any speaker who may mesh with a graduate course in members' department or college, or who may address student or faculty interests. Nomination forms were provided.

Larry asked the council to consider the following:

- Presenting a Cohen Center Scholar certificate, given at graduation, to recognize interdisciplinary work and academic achievement combining technology and humanism.
- Offer credit for work that involves the Cohen Center

The Cohen Center and the Madison Collaborative will offer a seminar in ethical reasoning through the School of Strategic Leadership during the fall.

Larry invited the council to contact Jie Michael or Melissa if they are interested in working with the Cohen Center

- Upcoming scholars for the Cohen Center Speaker Series:
- Diana Wall - Feb 26th
- Nickolas Rose–March 31st – April 1st
- Garry Hagburg - March 25th
- Joshua Green - April 8th

Presentation: Cohen Center Professional Development Initiatives

Larry introduced Grad Assistants Emily Kohl and Alys Sink.

Melissa Aleman, Emily Kohl, and Alys Sink gave a presentation on an emerging professional development collaboration between TGS and The Cohen Center. Melissa began by reminding the council of last year's May retreat when the group discussed professional development activities that are needed by graduate students.

Laura Ryman has been working with Melissa, Emily and Alys to determine how we are preparing students for different career trajectories by teaching transferable skills. They suggested that JMU should offer more programs for graduate students. They suggested several avenues for such programming:

- Partnership with the Cohen Center:
- Encourage program to develop incentives for students to participate
- Build credit and non-credit courses
- Develop systematic, career-long professional development for graduate students
- Determine best practices, transferrable skills, campus opportunities
- Focus on 6 areas of professional development which are being emphasized nationally: Scholarship, Teaching, Communication, Career Planning, Leadership Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Personal Wellness

Emily and Alys are creating an interactive map of professional development opportunities on campus and simultaneously identifying gaps in meeting the needs of graduate students.

Key skills that are necessary for graduate students: Networking, CV & Resume Writing, Interviewing, Employment Resources, Career Mapping, and finding a mentor.

Gaps in Graduate Student Professional Development Support:

- Career Mapping & Making Time for Scholarship
- Digital Identity Creation & Management
- Graduate Workshops on Grant Writing, Resumes, CVs, Fellowship & Prestigious Scholarship Applications
- Resources for Networking & Seminars
- Mentoring
- Identifying Skills, Interests & Values: Goal Setting

Alys and Emily asked that council members consider graduate students when offering an academic opportunity which addresses a gap.

Resources & Programs: Communication Center, Writing Center, Digital Consultants, Career and Academic Planning, Alumni Connections, Center for Faculty Innovation

Members were encouraged to contact Emily and Alys with any questions or feedback.

The goal is to create a living document online across programs, as interdisciplinary as possible.

Melissa concluded the presentation by asking that we help students navigate resources, build collaboration across departments, and make sure we provide non-discipline- specific professional development.

Tisha suggested the APA writing workshop, and CRI – scholarly writing lockdown

Leadership: executive coaches on MBA faculty can offer this.

Diane Wilcox offered to have the AHRD program graduate assistants help the Cohen Center with initiatives.

GSA Report

Alyssa announced that in the next few days she will send an email to gauge interest in the GSA meeting with departments.

Upcoming meetings: Feb 21st – will propose restructuring for executive council for the future, requesting input from every program. Will seek nominations for executive council for next year – all current members are graduating. Elections online.

April meeting: Provost Jerry Benson will be in attendance. This is a great opportunity for graduate students to meet with him.

Assistantship Support

Jie reported on upcoming possible changes in GA support.

There may be a change in out-of-state and in-state tuition ratio of assistantships. The overall goal is to increase the number of out-of-state students supported in assistantships so that programs can offer support to their best applicants. Jie has mentioned this goal to the Deans, and received positive feedback. He will communicate via email with all programs within the following week regarding adjustment

The total number of assistantships, tuition amounts for in-state and out-of-state residents, and stipend amount remain the same. TGS supports your programs and seek to help it remain competitive. Welcome to ask questions in the meantime.

Strategic Planning

Jie reported on the Strategic Planning process. There are three phases to the process; The task force has just finished the first phase At the end of each phase we share results with GC and other stakeholders for feedback.

The taskforce has considered university documents (Mission Vision and Values) and meets weekly with a facilitator. Jie introduced Rick Larson. The task force is currently soliciting feedback on phase one.

The progress on the document was shared with Academic Council yesterday, and received positive feedback

****Remaining Schedule for 2015-2016 Academic Year:***

No April Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2016 Graduate Showcase of Scholarship & Creative Activities, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday April 17, 2016 TGS Awards Reception, Madison Union Ballroom (RSVP grad@jmu.edu)

Friday, May 13, 2016 - 9:00 am - Noon