



Graduate Council

Meeting Minutes

Madison Union 306

November 12, 2015

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: Marilou Johnson (Academic Affairs), Matthew Rutherford (Business Administration), Linda Hulton (Nursing), Karen Ford (Strategic Leadership), Twylla Kirchen (Occupational Therapy), Jeff Dyche (Psychological Sciences), Nicholas Luden (Kinesiology), Michael Klein (WRTC), Fred Mayhew (Public Administration), Anthony Tongen (Mathematics), Pete Bsumek (Communication & Advocacy), Ayakasanta Rout (CSD), Caitlin Mundy (GSA), Courtney Sanders (GSA), Deborah Bandalos (Assessment & Measurement), Diane Wilcox (Adult Education/HRD), Dani Bronaugh (Exceptional Education), Brian Flota (Libraries & Educational Technologies), Brooks Hefner (English), Lynette Michael (The Graduate School) Jie Chen (The Graduate School), Melissa Aleman (The Graduate School), Michael Stoloff (The Graduate School)

Guests present: Tisha McCoy-Ntiamoah (College of Business), Ashley Skelly (on behalf of Gerald Weniger, Dept of Health Sciences), Paula Maxwell (College of Health & Behavioral Studies), Sara Harper (The Graduate School) Kristi Shackelford (Catalog), Ken Critchfield (College of Graduate Psychology) Janet Smith (Public Affairs)

Graduate programs not represented: History, College of Arts & Letters, CSPA, Computer Science, College of Science & Mathematics, Outreach & Engagement, Biology, Accounting, ISAT, Political Science, Music, Counseling & Supervision, College of Education, Art & Art History

1. **Approval of minutes** Dani Bronaugh moved to approve the minutes from October. Diane Wilcox seconded the motion: Approved.

2. **Announcements & Reports**

Melissa Aleman reported that the Honors Symposium will be April 15th. This event serves all disciplines and highlights student work. Students are encouraged to participate.

There will also be a first annual Awards for Excellence. Melissa asked that attendees email her if they are interested in joining a planning group for this event. More details to follow.

Jie informed the group that the Strategic Planning task force has been formed and is meeting to draft the Mission and Vision for The Graduate School. Graduate Council will inform the discussion later in the process, and members will be updated as progress is made.

Caitlin Mundy gave the GSA report. The Graduate Student Association is providing tours for prospective students. They led more individual tours this October than they had all of last year. The GSA continues to have community events. Most recently Happy Hour in October had a great turnout of 50 students.

The JMU Washington Center has availability as a venue for conferences and other events. Jie encouraged the group to take advantage of this opportunity. A handout was provided which contained information on

the Center as well as contact information for David Jones to make reservations. There are no fees to use the center in general, only a charge to use the large rooms.

3. Discussion and Action Items

Jie led a discussion regarding the major themes of Mission and Vision for Graduate Education at JMU. He gave an overview of the presentation “National Trends of Graduate Education” which was solely designed for discussion around graduate education for JMU. This can inform our consideration and development of a Strategic Plan for The Graduate School in relation to the goals of the university.

Discussion:

There is an interdisciplinary focus on the graduate level

Concern expressed regarding using program resources

Jie expressed that this is a natural evolution, not competition for resources.

Graduate practitioners are necessary in our world. Grad education meets a market driven need

Most institutions of comparable size have a larger grad enrollment. The identity of the institution benefits from grad focus. Grad programs can be a draw for hiring faculty.

There is a need for conversation surrounding the graduate level classroom experience (vs. the undergraduate experience).

Graduate stipends are currently not competitive.

There should be focus on faculty hires.

More collaboration is necessary among various units.

Many professions require continuing education – success of graduate programs/education is beneficial to undergraduate programs/education.

There is a high level of interest in 5th year programs.

The Strategic Plan that is being developed for The Graduate School will help shape Administration’s view of graduate education at JMU.

We need to ensure preparedness for growth we are striving for

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

All meetings will be 2:00-3:30pm with the exception of the May Retreat:

No December Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2016, Madison Union 404

Thursday, February 11, 2016, Madison Union 404

Thursday, March 31, 2016, Madison Union 404

No April Meeting (Symposium being planned)

Friday, May 13, 2016 - Morning Retreat