



Graduate Council Meeting Summary

Thursday, January 19, 2023

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Zoom

I. Call to Order

Dr. Linda Thomas, Dean, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

II. Approval of the Graduate Council Minutes from November 10, 2022*

A motion was made by Dr. Corey Hickerson to approve the Graduate Council Minutes from November 10, 2022, as dispensed. Dr. Julie Wallace Carr seconded the motion. The November 10, 2022, Graduate Council minutes were approved.

III. Unfinished Business Items

None.

IV. Business Items

A. Dean's Report

Dr. Linda Thomas reviewed initiatives involving staff and faculty, students, resources and services that The Graduate School (TGS) has accomplished since her last Dean's Report. Dr. Thomas serves on a number of selected university committees and task forces representing graduate education. Dr. Thomas provided highlights of TGS's priorities for 2023.

B. Enrollment Report

Applications received during 2022-23, for Summer and Fall 2023, are at an all-time high. This also holds true for international applications. At the time data was pulled for this meeting, there were 140 international applications as compared to the same time last year of 91 international applications. During 2022-23, 59% of international applications ultimately received were submitted after January 13, 2022.

C. Curriculum Chair Report

The Graduate Council Curriculum Committee (GCCC) is the first committee that reviews proposals from a university-wide perspective, after proposals have been approved within departments and colleges. It is clear that the members of the GCCC are committed to carefully considering every proposal, providing support by helping to clarify proposals and thereby helping programs achieve their desired objectives. Note that this year the GCCC is receiving an unprecedented number of proposals and because of the volume of proposals, the GCCC held an additional meeting to help catchup with the backlog of proposals waiting consideration. The Graduate Council, colleges and



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departments should recognize that the GCCC members are contributing substantially more time to this work than has been required in previous years.

D. Graduate Student Association Report

At the end of last semester, the Graduate Student Association (GSA) finalized their Professional Development grant process. The GSA selected 26 awardees that will be reimbursed for the costs of joining professional societies, attending conferences, and other development opportunities. The GSA will be offering another round in the spring semester, and students will be notified when the application link becomes available.

The GSA is focused on having a student representative from each graduate program offered at JMU. This would help to expand the number of events and activities offered to graduate students. If Graduate Council members know a student who may be interested, please have them contact the GS at gsa@jmu.edu.

The GSA will hold a General Body meeting, via Zoom, on Friday January 27th at 12:30pm. An agenda and link will be emailed out prior to the meeting. This would also be a great time for those interested in representing their program of study to learn more about GSA.

E. Faculty Fellow Report

Dr. Deborwah Faulk, the DEI Faculty Fellow for The Graduate School, gave the following report:

A Meet and Greet for graduate students, faculty, and staff is scheduled for February 6, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., in Holland Yates Hall, Room 4000. To register to attend complete the form at the following link: https://jmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_brXs7q8BO7Qa6NM We strongly encourage you to attend and share the event with your students.

Beginning in February, The TGS Graduate School 101 professional development workshop series will resume. The following sessions are tentatively planned. In order to accommodate online-only programs, 2 sessions will be offered via Zoom this term.:

1. From Student to Instructor (in-person)
2. TBA (on-line)
3. TBA (in-person)
4. Navigating the Mentor/Mentee Relationship (on-line)
5. Building the Career You Want, Today (in-person)



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Register for the first session, "From Student to Instructor" which will be held in Holland Yates Hall in-person from 4 PM - 5 PM on February 20 here:

https://jmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5o6JE9ZNn9IosHY

The Advancing Intelligent Minds (AIM) Development Grants will be re-launched this semester. The purpose of the AIM Grant is to provide funding to assist graduate students in gaining practical experiences or conduct scholarship related to their field of study. The AIM Development Grant are for unrepresented and minority graduate students. The deadline to apply is February 28. Application is available here: https://jmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9AhzBqlci1QNROK

The Graduate School will host A Graduate School Forum (likely in April) to expose undergraduate students to the possibility of graduate school and share advice about how to plan for graduate studies. This event is open to all undergraduate students but will strongly encourage underrepresented student attendance. Invitations will be extended to local colleges and universities.

For questions, please reach out to Dr. Deborah Faulk directly via email: faulidx@jmu.edu

V. New Business

A. Credential Evaluation Policy

It has been the practice that applicants are permitted to submit unofficial documentation of their prior course work during the initial admission review. The Graduate School has always required admitted students who are accepted based on unofficial documentation, and students who completed credential evaluations prior to the completion of their degree, to submit official documentation by the end of their first semester of enrollment.

The recommended changes to the credential evaluation policies in the Graduate Catalog for students who complete degree programs outside of the University State was explained. Members had received a copy of the policy change prior to the meeting. The change in policy requires documentation that students have earned prior degrees from accredited universities, and that they have completed particular courses with satisfactory grades.

A motion was made by Dr. Andrea Knopp to vote on the new credential evaluation policy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roshna Wunderlich. The motion carried.

B. Accelerated Graduate Programs Policy - First reading for GC.

A draft of the Accelerated Graduate Program Policy was shared with members prior to the meeting. Currently, JMU offers only three accelerated graduate programs, and this is a low number of offerings compared to George Mason University and Virginia Tech. There are many advantages of offering accelerated programs. The primary advantage would be to help promote James Madison University as an academically-desirable undergraduate institution. Accelerated graduate programs



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may encourage more students to select JMU because they allow students to complete their undergraduate degree and master's degree in five years. Reducing the cost of obtaining a traditional two-year master's program may entice incoming undergraduate students to select JMU. This may increase graduate enrollment, which is consistent with JMU's position as an R2 university.

This was the first reading of the Accelerated Graduate Programs Policy. Members were encouraged to take the policy back to their departments to hold discussions. Please direct questions to Dr. Michael Stoloff. In the meantime, The Graduate School will continue to have conversations with Academic Resources, Financial Aid and other university entities in order to finalize the policy. The Accelerated Graduate Programs Policy will be revisited at the next Graduate Council meeting.

C. Intensive English Summer Program

The Study Group will again provide an intensive English Summer Program for international students who need to improve their English-language proficiency before they will be ready for a JMU graduate program. Students may be conditionally admitted for Fall 2023 with the condition that they successfully complete a one-term experience with Study Group prior to the fall term. The program will also be available to students who are not required to complete the program but who feel that their English is weak. Programs may recommend this program to unconditionally admitted students who want to complete it to strengthen their skills.

D. New Graduate School Staff Member

Cooper O'Neil recently joined The Graduate School replacing Kathryn Brown, as the Student Records and Graduate Specialist.

VI. Adjournment

With no further business, Dr. Brooks Hefner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Rachelle Dorne seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to end the Graduate Council Meeting at 3:09 p.m.



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| Graduate Council Voting Members | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|---|---------------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Academic Unit | Joined Zoom Meeting |
| Almjeld | Jennifer | Writing, Rhetoric, & Technical Communication (WRTC) | Yes |
| Coates | Tabitha | Learning, Technology, & Leadership Education | Yes |
| Dabback | William | Music | Yes |
| Danzell | Orlandrew | School of Integrated Sciences | Yes |
| Diop | Corinne | College of Visual and Performing Arts | Yes |
| Dillard | David | History | Yes |
| Dorne | Rachelle | Health Professions | Yes |
| Dyche | Jeff | Psychology | Yes |
| Gabbin | Alexander | Accounting | |
| Hardwick | Kevin | History | |
| Hefner | Brooks | English | Yes |
| Heydari | Hossain | Computer Science | |
| Hickerson | Corey | Communication & Advocacy | Yes |
| Imbrescia | Eric | Early, Elementary & Reading Education | |
| Knopp | Andrea | Nursing | Yes |
| Luden | Nick | Kinesiology | Yes |
| Piker | Erin | Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD) | Yes |
| Rutherford | Matthew | Business Administration | |
| Sloan | Lochnivar | Graduate Student Association | |
| Sloan | Margaret | School of Strategic Leadership | |



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| Staton | Renee | Department of Graduate Psychology | Yes |
| Stevens | Alexis | Mathematics | Yes |
| Sloan | Margaret | School of Leadership | |
| Taylor | Jennifer | Political Science | |
| Wallace-Carr | Julie | Sport & Rec Leadership | Yes |
| Wasta | Stephanie | Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities | Yes |
| Webb | Angela | Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education | Yes |
| Wunderlich | Roshna | Biology | Yes |

| Graduate Council Non-Voting Members | | | |
|--|------------|--|---------------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Title | Joined Zoom Meeting |
| Thomas | Linda | Dean | Yes |
| Stoloff | Michael | Associate Dean, Admissions and Recruitment | Yes |
| Ryman | Laura | Interim Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Student Services | Yes |

| Guests | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Last Name | First Name | Academic Unit | Joined Zoom Meeting |
| Anderson | Robin | Graduate Psychology | |
| Apple | Kevin | Associate Dean, College of Sciences & Mathematics | |
| Bell | Pamela | Dean's Office, The Graduate School | Yes |
| Brown | Kathryn | Degree Audit Specialist | |
| Carr | Julie Wallace | Hart School | |



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| Cooper | Brian | Graduate Student Association Representative | |
| Doss | Cheryl | Dean's Office, The Graduate School | |
| Faulk | Deborwah | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Faculty Fellow, The Graduate School | Yes |
| Hawley | Allyssa | University Career Center Advisor | |
| Hegg | Kevin | Libraries | |
| Kratz | Jonathan | Center for Global Engagement, Director of International Student Services | |
| MacDonald | Sarah | PCE | Yes |
| Malburne-Wade | Meredith | Honors College | |
| Maxwell | Paula | Faculty and Curriculum | Yes |
| Michael | Lynette | Dean's Office, The Graduate School Director of Admissions | Yes |
| Miller | Yvonne | Dean's Office, The Graduate School | Yes |
| O'Neil | Cooper | Dean's Office, The Graduate School | Yes |
| Rose | Liz | Dean's Office, The Graduate School | Yes |
| Stax Brown | Carol | CGE | Yes |
| Stewart | Anne | Graduate Psychology | |
| White | Sian | Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters | Yes |
| Wightman | William | Art Education | Yes |