



Graduate Council Meeting Summary

January 20, 2022

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Zoom

I. Call to Order

Dr. Linda Thomas, Dean, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Approval of the Graduate Council Minutes from November 11, 2021*

A motion was made by Dr. Andrea Knopp to approve the Graduate Council minutes from November 11, 2021, as dispensed. Dr. William Dabback seconded the motion. The November 11, 2021, Graduate Council meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Business Items

A. Dean's Update

Dean Thomas provided an update highlighting completed initiatives, ongoing initiatives and future initiatives of The Graduate School (TGS) from June 2021 through December 2021.

B. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee Chair Report

The Graduate Council Curriculum Committee (GCCC) meets the fourth Thursday of each month. The GCCC process is to report the agenda to Graduate Council by email in advance of their regularly scheduled meeting. Decisions are also conveyed by email after the meeting when decisions are logged into Curriculog.

There is a new doctoral program in Education, and this has been entered into Curriculog.

C. Graduate Student Association Report

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) will have their first meeting of the semester during the first week of February. GSA hopes to hold a facilitated discussion related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. GSA will be opening up the professional development grant application again. They have already awarded 17 grants this year. The GSA promises more events to come!

D. THRIVE Report

1. For Fall Semester, THRIVE reported the following:

- a. Assisted new international students to settle into their Harrisonburg housing.
- b. Participated in the pre-arrival sessions for the upcoming international graduate students and welcomed the new students on campus.
- c. Participated in the Orientation session for graduate students.
- d. Conducted two THRIVE introduction presentations to new graduate students in the Health & Behavioral Studies (HBS).

- e. Conducted monthly affinity group meetings and one “Meet and Greet” gathering for all graduate students.
 - f. Helped the international graduate students’ affinity group to become a student organization on campus by getting GLOBAL (Graduate Leaders Organization to Build Alliance and Links) recognized.
 - g. Provided outreach for Asian-American and Hispanic graduate students on campus, to activate their affinity groups and collect information for them to connect with the JMU faculty and staff.
2. For Spring Semester, THRIVE reported the following:
- a. Conduct monthly affinity group meetings and fellowship activities.
 - b. Provide outreach for more graduate students to attend the affinity groups.
 - c. THRIVE cultural trip to one of the cities (DC, Williamsburg, or Richmond) [in May].
 - d. Plan a volunteering activity to promote integrity (if possible).
 - e. Work on starting a yearly prize for graduates who are active in serving the affinity groups.

IV. Unfinished Business

A. JMU-Wide Graduate Faculty Representatives

The Graduate School receives frequent requests to have a representative to serve on different university committees. For example, a graduate faculty member was needed to serve on the QEP Committee: Early Alerts, and Dr. Corey Hickerson agreed to serve. As requests are received, Dr. Thomas will send an email asking for volunteers and provide information on the commitment required.

B. International Recruiting Efforts – Dr. Michael Stoloff

International recruitment efforts have been strong this year, and there are as many international applicants thus far this year, as total for last year.

1. Intensive English Language Summer Programs

The Study Group will be providing two options for international students who need to improve their English-language proficiency before they will be ready to begin a JMU graduate program. Starting Summer 2022, both an online and on-campus, intensive English program will be available. The goal of each program is to help students improve reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in English, to become proficient enough to be successful graduate students. Students may be conditionally admitted for Fall 2022 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 a program to unconditionally admitted students who want to complete it to strengthen their English skills.

2. English Language Proficiency Tests*

Currently JMU accepts IELTS and TOEFL examinations as proof of English Language Proficiency. The Graduate Council had discussions during their September meeting regarding

the possibility of accepting Duolingo scores as many requests are received from international students to submit Duolingo scores, citing cost and convenience of this test. Information about Duolingo was shared with members prior to the meeting today. Discussion ensued. It was decided by Graduate Council to collect additional information before reaching a decision.

Question – With the university standard having a baseline for acceptance, would programs have the ability to choose to use a score above the baseline?

Answer – Yes.

Question – Would the program need to accept the student if the Duolingo score is accepted?

Answer – No.

If Duolingo is accepted by the Graduate Council, programs will need to indicate whether they accept Duolingo or opt out within their webpage. This will be reflected on the webpages TGS maintains, as well. Effective date would be Fall 2022 and programs would need to alert The Graduate School as to their requirements regarding Duolingo, with ample time to prepare.

The recommendation before the Graduate Council today is the following: JMU indicates that IELTS or TOEFL scores are preferred, but we will accept Duolingo Scores. The university minimum score will be 105; some programs may require higher scores.

Dr. Margaret Sloan moved to accept the motion and Dr. Corey Hickerson seconded the motion.

Votes were accepted through the chat window of Zoom, and the recommendation was approved.

3. EduCo Accelerate*

JMU will now be taking advantage of the services offered through an international recruitment platform from EduCo. “Accelerate” is EduCo’s website name for recruiting. EduCo agents help international students find fitting programs and universities, complete the application and assist students in being admitted to universities. Starting this week, The Graduate School is experimenting with 15 of our grad programs by listing them on the Accelerate website. The experiment is to see if this brings in any applicants. The EduCo agent may be submitting the form on behalf of student. Our programs are free to accept or not accept, as with any other applicants. Academic Affairs pays a stipend to EduCo if we enroll the student. Cost comes from the university, not programs or The Graduate School.

V. New Business

A. Call for Assistantship Ad Hoc Committee members

Dean Thomas plans to form several ad hoc committees to bring policy change or initiatives to have the Graduate Council to vote on. Currently there is a need for an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines for requesting use of remaining GA funding and deadlines. If you are interested in serving on this ad hoc committee, please let Dr. Thomas know.

B. New Graduate School Staff Members

1. Ms. Arlynda Boyer is the new Assistantship Coordinator. She will be working with Ms. Lisa Hajdasz. Arlynda will be responsible for the accounting and data collection regarding GA tuition packages. She will also serve as the liaison to program directors.
2. Ms. Sheree Will is retiring at the end of February. Ms. Beth Johnson will be her replacement as the Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions.

C. DEI Faculty Fellows Introductions

1. Dr. Deborwah Faulk, an Assistant Professor from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the College of Arts and Letters, will serve as the inaugural Junior Faculty Fellow for DEI at The Graduate School. Dr. Faulk will help with DEI strategic planning, while her main focus will be on TGS's THRIVE program. She will also be available to mentor underrepresented graduate students.
2. Dr. Hak-Seon Lee, a professor from the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Letters, will serve as the inaugural Senior Faculty Fellow for DEI at the Graduate School. Dr. Lee will lead the TGS DEI strategic plan and conduct equity audits in addition to mentoring underrepresented graduate students.

VI. Announcements

- A. The 5th Annual Three Minute Thesis Competition is scheduled for Friday, January 21, 2022 at 6:00 pm, in Madison Hall, First Floor Rooms 1001-1002.
- B. Graduate Council Retreat, May 20 (tentative).

VII. Conclusion

Dean Thomas thanked members for their participation in the meeting. With no further business, Dr. Andrea Knopp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Sian White seconded the motion and members voted unanimously to end the Graduate Council Meeting at 3:12 p.m.

*Votes are likely to be called for items marked with an asterisk.



Graduate Council Voting Members

Sign-in Sheet

January 20, 2022

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Zoom

Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Almjeld	Jennifer	Writing, Rhetoric, & Technical Communication (WRTC)	Yes
Akers	Jeremy	Health Professions	Yes
Bandalos	Deborah	Department of Graduate Psychology	Yes
Carr	Julie Wallace	Hart School	
Coates	Tabitha	Learning, Technology, & Leadership Education	Yes
Dabback	William	Music	Yes
Danzell	Orlandrew	School of Integrated Sciences	Yes
Dillard	David	History	Yes
Dyche	Jeff	Psychology - Undergraduate	
Hefner	Brooks	English	Yes
Heydari	Hossain	Computer Science	
Hickerson	Corey	Communication & Advocacy	Yes
Imbrescia	Eric	Early, Elementary & Reading Education	
Knopp	Andrea	Nursing	Yes
Mayhew	Fred	Political Science	Yes
Nichols	Nancy	Accounting	Yes
Nye Edwards	Susan Liz	Kinesiology	Yes
Rout	Ayasakanta	Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD)	Yes
Rutherford	Matthew	Business Administration	
Sloan	Margaret	School of Leadership	Yes



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Stevens	Alexis	Mathematics	
Timler	Geralyn	Communications Sciences and Disorders	
Wasta	Stephanie	Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities	Yes
Webb	Angela	Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education	Yes
Wightman	Bill	School of Art & Design History	Yes
Wunderlich Walker	Roshna Marquis	Biology	Yes
Jones	Ellen Marie	Graduate Student Association	
Curtis	Ramond	Graduate Student Association	Yes



Graduate Council Guests

Sign-in Sheet

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The Graduate School Representatives Non-Voting Members		
Full Name	Title	Joined Zoom Meeting
Linda Thomas	Dean	Yes
Michael Stoloff	Associate Dean, Admissions and Recruitment	Yes
Laura Ryman	Interim Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Student Services	Yes

Guests			
Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Anderson	Robin	Graduate Psychology	Yes
Apple	Kevin	Associate Dean, College of Sciences & Mathematics	Yes
Bell	Pamela	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
Bourne	Mary Lou	Research and Scholarship	
Davis	Marcus	Dean's Office, College of Science & Mathematics	
Doss	Cheryl	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
Faulk	Deborwah	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Faculty Fellow, The Graduate School	Yes
Gallagher	Scott	Associate Dean, College of Business	



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Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Hajdasz	Lisa	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
Holloway	Steven	Libraries & Educational Technologies	Yes
Kielty	Michelle	School Counseling Program	
Klein	Michael	Associate Professor, WRTC	
Lee	Hakseon	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Faculty Fellow, The Graduate School	Yes
MacDonald	Sarah	Dean's Office, Professional & Continuing Education	Yes
Maxwell	Paula	Vice Provost, Faculty & Curriculum	Yes
Michael	Lynette	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
Miller	Yvonne	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
Shackelford	Kristi	Office of Vice Provost for Academic Development	
Stax Brown	Carol	Interim Director, Center for Global Engagement	Yes
Stevens	Wren	Interim Associate Dean, College of Visual & Performing Arts	Yes
Tang	Jeff	Dean's Office, College of Integrated Science and Engineering	
Way	Henry	Interim Associate Dean, CISE, ISAT	
White	Sian	Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters	Yes
Zugelder	Bryan	Associate Dean, College of Education	



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Program Directors			
Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Marcopulos	Bernice	Program Director, Psychological Sciences	Yes
Stewart	Anne	Program Director, PSYC/Combined Clinical & School Psych	Yes