



Graduate Council Meeting Summary

January 18, 2024

2:00 - 3:30 pm

[Zoom](#)

I. Call to Order

Dr. Stoloff, Associate Dean, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

II. Approval of the Graduate Council Minutes from September 21, 2023*

No changes were made to the minutes from The Graduate Council Meeting on September 21, 2023. The September 21, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

III. Business Items

A. Graduate Student Association Report

The GSA has recruited all executive board member positions. They are as follows:

- President: Sophia Park
- Vice President: Brittany Shultz
- Secretary: Mackenzie Harry
- Treasurer: Allyson Whitt
- Social Chair: Sidnie Baker
- Program Representative Liaison: Juste Mehou

This semester, the GSA will coordinate a Clothing and Food Drive to replenish supplies in the Graduate Lounge. They also plan to produce a graduate handbook to assist graduate students with helpful hints from experienced students and faculty. The GSA may be contacted by emailing gsa@jmu.edu.

B. Curriculum Report

The Curriculum Committee received many new curriculum proposals during the Spring and Fall semesters. Some proposals have been unresolved due to their quantity and submission dates. Proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, as the approval process takes time.

Dr. Stoloff reminded graduate council members that we have a policy and procedures for proposing accelerated graduate programs for JMU undergraduates, but no proposals have been received. If anyone would like to discuss a proposal for an accelerated program, please get in touch with Dr. Stoloff. He asked that this opportunity be shared among colleagues. More information regarding accelerated programs can be found [here](#).



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IV. New Business

A. Policy Discussion

1. Assistantships and Academic Warning

The main change in this policy is that students whose GPA falls below 3.0 will not be required to relinquish their graduate assistantship until their current contract expires.

Dr. Julie Carr made a motion to approve the policy changes, and Dr. Corey Hickerson seconded the motion. The voting members present approved the policy changes.

2. Transfer Credit

This proposed policy, with the support of the student's academic program, allows up to one-third of the program's required credit hours to be transferred from other universities. It also allows up to two-thirds of the required credits for a program to be completed at JMU before admission to that program.

Dr. Gubser motioned to approve the policy changes, and Dr. Knopp seconded the motion. These policy changes were approved by the voting members present.

The approved policy changes will be implemented immediately and reflected in the Fall 2024 catalog updates.

3. One Year Wait and Repeat, Forgive

Students who receive an F are discontinued and must wait one year before continuing their program. They must retake required courses if they choose to continue the program, but the F remains on their transcript and is calculated into their GPA. This makes it extremely difficult for the student to achieve the 3.0 GPA required for graduation. This policy change would allow students to **replace** the F with the new grade so that the F is not calculated into the GPA. The new policy would allow up to two repeat-forgive courses within the student's graduate career. It would be at the program's discretion to allow their students to utilize this policy.

Graduate Council members asked for more information regarding how many programs will want to allow this and what peer institutions are doing in this regard. They would also like to know how often students are dismissed from their programs and how often do they request to be readmitted. Michael and Laura will gather information to bring back to the Graduate Council for discussion.



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B. 3MT Competition

The 3MT will not take place this year as there were not enough entries. Other options and alternative modes of delivery are being considered for future competitions.

C. Call for award nominations (Deadline 3/11)

Faculty are encouraged to nominate students for the TGS Outstanding Thesis, Dissertation, Excellence in Scholarship, Innovation, and Engagement Awards. Nominations can be sent to gradstudentservices@jmu.edu. More information regarding awards can be found [here](#).

D. Grad Showcase

The Showcase of Graduate Student Scholarship and Creative Activities (AKA: The Grad Showcase) will take place April 17 in The Hall of Presidents. This will be a full day of graduate student presentations. More information will be sent via email and the Graduate Community Newsletter and can be found [here](#).

E. Questions and Concerns

Last year, programs were told that assistantships would be residency-neutral. Will this be the case for next year as well? Yes, we will continue to have the same policy. The assistantships must be offered early, especially for international students.

It was mentioned that graduate students need more on-campus housing. Dr. Stoloff confirmed there are plans for a graduate student housing facility to be built. We are unsure when this will come to fruition.

It was also mentioned that the Environmental Sustainability students need housing for the Fall semester, and the SLP online students need housing for six weeks in the Summer.

V. Announcements

The next Graduate Program Director Assembly Meeting is scheduled for February 8. The main focus of the meeting will be international students.

VII. Conclusion

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.



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Graduate Council Voting Members			
Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Almjeld	Jennifer	Writing, Rhetoric, & Technical Communication (WRTC)	
Coates	Tabitha	Learning, Technology, & Leadership Education	Yes
Dabback	William	Music	
Diop	Corinne	College of Visual and Performing Arts	Yes
Dorne	Rachelle	Health Professions	
Gubser	Michael	History	Yes
Hefner	Brooks	English	Yes
Heydari	Hossain	Computer Science	
Hickerson	Corey	Communication & Advocacy	Yes
Imbrescia	Eric	Early, Elementary & Reading Education	
Irving	Jim	Accounting	
Knopp	Andrea	Nursing	Yes
Marcopulos	Bernice	Department of Graduate Psychology	Yes
Moore	Kethera	Psychology	Yes
Nye	Susan	Kinesiology	
Park	Sophia	Graduate Student Association	Yes
Piker	Erin	Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD)	Yes
Rutherford	Matthew	Business Administration	
Sloan	Margaret	School of Strategic Leadership	Yes



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Spindel	an	School of Integrated Sciences	Yes
Stevens	Alexis	Mathematics	Yes
Taylor	Jennifer	Political Science	Yes
Wallace-Carr	Julie	Sport & Rec Leadership	Yes
Wasta	Stephanie	Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities	
Webb	Angela	Middle, Secondary, & Mathematics Education	Yes
Wunderlich	Roshna	Biology	Yes

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

Guests			
Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Bell	Pamela	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
De Hertogh	Lori Beth	Associate Professor, College of Arts and Letters	Yes
Doss	Cheryl	Dean's Office, The Graduate School	Yes
Hegg	Kevin	Director of IS, Digital Projects, Libraries	Yes
Hochstetler	Douglas	Associate Dean, College of Health and Behavioral Studies	Yes
Kurti	Stephanie	Associate Professor, College of Health and Behavioral Studies	Yes



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MacDonald	Sarah	Associate Dean, School of Professional and Continuing Education	Yes
Maxwell	Paula	Faculty and Curriculum	Yes
McDonnell	Kristi	Student Records and Graduation Specialist, The Graduate School	Yes
Michael	Lynette	Dean's Office, The Graduate School Director of Admissions	Yes
Webb	Angela	Associate Professor, College of Education	Yes
White	Sian	Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters	Yes