



Graduate Council Meeting Summary

March 13, 2025

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 January 23, 2025*

The title of the minutes from the Graduate Council Meeting on January 23, 2025, was changed to read Summary. The January 23, 2025, meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. Business Items

A. Juste Mahou gave the Graduate Student Association (GSA) Report, which is included in Addendum 1.

B. Dr. Michael Stoloff provided a report on the Curriculum Committee.

C. Dr. Michael Stoloff provided a Recruitment/Admissions Report

A record number of graduate applications have been received, and there are 366 international applicants.

D. Student Services Report

1. The 3MT winner was Luke Lotsis, a biology student. He will now advance in competition to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools.
2. Will hold several professional development programs. Information on these programs and registration can be found on the calendar located: <https://www.jmu.edu/grad/current-students/index.shtml>
3. The Showcase of Graduate Student Scholarship and Creative Activities is scheduled for Friday, April 11, 2025, in the Hall of Presidents in D-Hall, third floor.
4. The Graduate School will host the Virginia Council of Graduate Schools at JMU on April 24-25, 2025. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Laura Ryman know, and she will share the meeting details.



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IV. Unfinished Business

None

V. New Business

- A. The proposal for The Graduate School's Policy on Student Appeals for Policy Exceptions was shared with members before the meeting. This was the first reading. Please direct any questions or concerns to Dr. Linda Thomas.

VI. Announcements

None.

VII. Conclusion

With no further business, Dr. Melissa Aleman made a motion, which was properly seconded by Dr. Andrea Knopp, to adjourn the meeting at 2:23 p.m. The motion carried.

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



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Graduate Council Voting Members			
Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meet
Irving	James	Accounting	
Wunderlich	Roshna	Biology	Yes
Rutherford	Matthew	Business Administration	
Piker	Erin	Communication Sciences & Disorders (CSD)	Yes
Heydari	Hossain	Computer Science	
Gilligan	Tammy	Department of Graduate Psychology	
Fogler-Moore	Kethera	Department of Psychology	Yes
Imbrescia	Eric	Early, Elementary & Reading Education	
Murray	Dannette	Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities	
Godfrey	Mollie	English	Yes
Carr	Ben	Hart School	Yes
Peterson	Connie	Health Professions	Yes
Gubser	Michael	History	
Kurti-Luden	Stephanie	Kinesiology	
Coates	Tabitha	Learning, Technology, & Leadership Education	Yes
Stevens	Alexis	Mathematics	Yes
Carbaugh	Eric	Middle, Secondary, and Mathematics Education	Yes
Knopp	Andrea	Nursing	Yes
Sombo (Muzata) & Alexander (Rob)	Muzata (Sombo) & Rob (Alexander)	Political Science	Yes (Muzata)



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Diop	Corinne	School of Art & Design History	Yes
Aleman	Melissa	School of Communication Studies	Yes
Spindel	Jonathan	School of Integrated Sciences	
Dabback	William "Will"	School of Music	Yes
Sloan	Margaret	School of Strategic Leadership	Yes
DeHertogh	Lori Beth	Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communication (WRTC)	
Mehou	Juste	Graduate Student Association	
Plowright	Emily	Graduate Student Association	

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	Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Student Services	Yes

Guests			
Last Name	First Name	Academic Unit	Joined Zoom Meeting
Anderson	Robin	Professor, Graduate Psychology	
Hochstetler	Doug	Associate Dean, CHBS	
Bell	Pamela	Administrative Assistant, TGS	Yes
Brutus	Tiffany	Research and Scholarship	
Doss	Cheryl	Recruitment & Marketing Coordinator, TGS	Yes



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Gallagher	Scott	Associate Dean, COB	
Flota	Brian	Library	Yes
Johnson	Beth	Interim Director of Admissions	Yes
Kielty	Michele	Professor, Department of Graduate Psychology	
Lipscomb	Rebecca	Finance and Data Manager, TGS	
MacDonald	Sarah	Assistant Dean, Outreach & Engagement	Yes
Maxwell	Paula	Associate Vice Provost	Yes
McDonnell	Kristi	Student Records and Graduation Specialist, The Graduate School	Yes
Miller	Yvonne	Assistant to the Dean, TGS	Yes
Rose	Liz	Graduate Admissions Document Manager and Computer Coordinator, TGS	Yes
Shackelford	Kristi	Communications Officer, Academic Affairs	
Stevens	Wren	Associate Dean, CVPA	Yes
Lam	Mike	Interim Assistant Dean, College of Integrated Science and Engineering	
White	Siân	Associate Dean, College of Arts and Letters	
Zhou	Jy	Director, Center for Global Engagement	
Zugelder	Bryan	Associate Dean, COE	
Kratz	Jonathan	Director, International Student & Scholar Services, Center for Global Engagement	



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Addendum 1

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Spring 2025 Update

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) at James Madison University continues its mission to enhance the graduate student experience through engaging events, professional development opportunities, and open forums to address student concerns.

Building on the momentum from Fall 2024, the GSA planned five activities for the Spring 2025 semester, of which three have already taken place:

Planned Activities for Spring 2025

1. **CV and Job Labs (Cancelled)** – Originally scheduled for February 6th, this event was canceled due to a scheduling conflict with a similar event hosted by the Career Center. Registered students were redirected to the Career Center's event to avoid duplication of efforts.
2. **Panel Talk with JMU Alumni** – Alumni from three different JMU departments joined us for a two-hour virtual conversation. The discussion covered various topics, including workplace dynamics, career preparation, and the role of AI in the workplace. The session was highly engaging and provided valuable insights for attendees.
3. **Kayaking Experience at UREC (Upcoming: April 19, 2025)** – Organized in collaboration with UREC, this outdoor activity at Lake Switzer will provide students with an opportunity to unwind, connect, and enjoy time on the water.



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4. **Last General Board Meeting (Upcoming: April 28, 2025)** – The final meeting of the semester will include a review of the year's activities and the election of Board Members for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

Professional Development Grant Update

The spring application cycle for the Professional Development Grant has now closed. Applications are currently under review.

As we reach the midpoint of the semester, we look forward to the successful completion of our planned activities and the continued participation of graduate students in GSA events.

Wendy Kinyeki

Secretary, Graduate Student Association

James Madison University

Juste Mehou

President, Graduate Student Association

James Madison University