

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting

October 17, 2018

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes

Present: Sheila Fleming, Liya Yin, Sam Crish, Priya Raman, Lisa Cooper, Emily Plyler and Nona Hose

Absent: Jesse Young

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Funding for graduate student Zahra Ghasemahmad	<p>Dr. Sam Crish called the meeting to order and in the interest of Dr. Wenstrup's time, he asked that we approve the minutes after the second agenda item.</p> <p>Dr. Wenstrup addressed the committee concerning BMS student, Zahra Ghasemahmad's request for funding. Zahra is an international student who has been in the Kent BMS program since 2012. She is very engaged and focused. Her time in the program is not a reflection of her engagement and effort. Zahra began working with Dr. Jason Richardson's equipment for her dissertation but the equipment became unavailable to her. She tried utilizing the LCMS machine in Dr. Haqqi's lab but realized it was not sensitive enough for the purposes she needed. Zahra has gone to eight different places trying to get the samples she needs to complete her research.</p> <p>Dr. Wenstrup is supporting Zahra and another graduate student with his own funds – not a grant. He is a supporter of graduate education. He is going to provide half of the \$16,000.00 she needs to have Vanderbilt perform the work to attain her samples, equaling \$8,000.00. Dr. Schmidt has committed \$2,000.00 and the BMS committee is being asked for the remaining \$6,000.00.</p> <p>Questions and concerns of the committee included: What is the timeframe? 24 animals, 1-2 per week, 6-8 months. Goal is to defend December of 2019.</p> <p>What will the \$16,000 include? Microdialysis, freeze the samples, send them out.</p> <p>Can BMS the funds be given once the information is confirmed to be useful? Yes, Dr. Wenstrup will provide updates to the committee.</p> <p>If the data is reliable will it be defensible? Yes.</p> <p>Is Zahra in good standing in the program? Yes</p> <p>Have any pilot experiments been done? No, but they will be looking at the data closely as it follows the time course.</p> <p>Will this support her future success? Yes, she is looking at post docs that work with these things.</p> <p>Is there any possibility that the scope of her project would change given the previous data collection? No.</p> <p>Dr. Wenstrup exited the meeting.</p> <p>The committee discussed the request for funds. Concerns from committee members included the dean would suggest using the BMS</p>	

	<p>funds. It is not an open pot of money for anyone to use. The student hasn't been able to use Dr. Jason Richardson's equipment since the Fall of 2016 – enough time has gone by that the PI could have re-directed the focus. This should have been addressed much earlier.</p> <p>The student needs help to complete her research. NEOMED is small in size and able to be more personal.</p> <p>A motion was made to help the student in need up to \$6,000.00 based on milestones and any savings would come back to the BMS funds. The committee was tied on its decision. The chair voted to break the tie. The students will receive the funds needed to complete her research up to \$6,000.00.</p> <p>The committee briefly discussed the idea of developing a competitive grant opportunity for all students. Development of a pilot grant award policy will be put on the agenda for the November meeting.</p>	
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes by acclamation	Dr. Sam Crish asked for an approval of the meeting minutes from July. The minutes were approved unanimously.	
3. Process for requesting a new students for faculty	Dr. Crish will write up a draft policy for petitioning the committee for student funding for discussion by the committee at the November meeting.	
4. New cohort of BMS students to NEOMED	The committee agreed that Thursday afternoons will work best for inviting the new cohort of BMS students to NEOMED for a visit and tour. The visit should not take place before November 11 due to conferences and annual meetings that are coming up the end of October and beginning of November.	Nona and Dr. Crish will organize this event.
5. BMS Committee members call for nominations.	Whose terms are expiring at the end of 2018? Dr. Cooper and Dr. Crish's terms are expiring, except that Dr. Crish is the chair and his term as chair just started January 2018. Dr. Cooper's seat on the committee will be the only one replaced.	Nona will send out a call for nominations in November.
Agenda items for discussion at future meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a policy regarding funding requests</li> <li>• Courses offered twice a year, TAs teach twice or have double TAs?</li> </ul>	
	The meeting was adjourned.	