

BMS Graduate Program Committee
April 15, 2015
Conference Room 330 in the RGEB
3 p.m.

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Lucy Coughlin, Yanqiao Zhang, Gary Meszaros, Bill Lynch and Margaret Weakland (support)

Meeting called to order.

Dr. Galazyuk asked for any changes/edits for our February 18, 2015 meeting minutes. Dr. Lynch motioned to approve and Dr. Meszaros seconded; all in favor; unanimous approval. Minutes approved.

The committee discussed how to develop strategies to increase number and quality of student applicants to various disciplines. More participation is needed from NEOMED faculty. Dr. Chilian had recently commented on the lack of NEOMED faculty (and students) at the data blitz that KSU recently held. How do we engage more attendance and support? Dr. Lynch commented that this should fall on the department chairs, to encourage their faculty to attend and or support these type of functions; a way for students to meet professors (at NEOMED) and to potentially ask questions about their research, etc. Dr. Meszaros commented as he and others just got back from an Experimental Biology (EB) conference; Dr. Mintz covered the cost for a table at the undergraduate poster session, although there were no knick-knacks to hand out it was well-attended; he had posters there to talk about the program. Dr. Mintz said they did the same thing at a neuroscience meeting. Dr. Meszaros will forward the committee a copy of the poster they used; we can create our own based off of the style/concept. Not many students know we have good research here and we need to get the word out; Gary Meszaros and Yanqiao Zhang were tasked to find how we can reach out and get the NEOMED name out there. We'd like to create this collateral and post at KSU, i.e., biology and chemistry departments and list what research NEOMED does and contact information. Is there a list-serve we can use to send the collateral too; will check with our public relations and marketing department. One idea that came up was having our faculty go to universities and colleges for an undergraduate research talk and / or invite faculty to our campus for a seminars. Another thought was that we can reach out to the recruiters (or Jim Barrett) at NEOMED; they recruit for our College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy and the BS/MD program; we need to tell them more about what we do and tell them more about our collaborative partnership with KSU and our Biomedical Sciences (BMS) program.

We cannot rely simply on these means, we need faculty to help too. After more discussion there was a question of what percentage of the applicants are international? On a side note, Dr. Mintz had stated

to Dr. Galazyuk that NEOMED is stronger in receipt of grant support than Kent State University.

Next item of discussion is teaching assignments (TA); Dr. Galazyuk wondered if there should be any changes made to the TA policy. No. Student(s) and course directors still have to fill out the form. Student(s) need to talk to the advisor about the TA form so all are informed of TA intent, till the TA list is approved.

Discussed the progress of putting together a policy for monitoring students towards their 5-year degree completion in the BMS program. Dr. Zhang had a hand-out from our last meeting to discuss but in the absence of time, we didn't discuss it. Margaret had a copy in her files and shared with the committee. Dr. Galazyuk will check to see if BMS has a policy for support after 5 years. Dr. Zhang requested the progress report be used at the end of student's 4th year or definitely by start of their 5th year in the program, so we can see how they are progressing and set out a plan if needed. Dr. Galazyuk stated he will follow-up with KSU and take this over and start to develop a plan. Margaret will email him the copy of the amendment that Dr. Zhang had created for our last meeting.

Miscellaneous:

Dr. Ernest Freeman, new Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Director starts on May 1, 2015.

Meeting adjourned.