

BMS Graduate Program Committee

June 18, 2014

RGEB-330

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Lisa Cooper, June Yun, Gary Meszaros, Yanqiao Zhang, Nichole Foster and Nona Hose

Meeting called to order.

Dr. Zhang made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May meeting and Dr. Meszaros seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

Dr. Galazyuk shared that Dr. Werner Geldenhuys has a TA position available for one of the two students who still need to be placed for 2014-2015. The student will TA the Pharmaceuticals portion of his lab and the Cosmeceuticals course. The other student may have to be asked to TA at KSU for the upcoming academic year. Dr. Galazyuk will confirm which student will TA at each location and email the finalized list to members of the committee for approval.

Dr. Galazyuk shared comments he received regarding the new policy for financial support of NEOMED-based BMS students. Some of the suggestions were simple edits, while some were asking for more clarification.

There should be verbiage stating the importance of TA to the program in the beginning of the policy. The committee agreed that this would be beneficial.

There should be language regarding the inability of students supported by a NIH grant to TA. Dr. Galazyuk shared that he didn't think this should be included as the NIH could change its policy. The committee decided not to include this language in the policy.

Include the decrease in funding by the state at the beginning of the policy. The committee chose not to include verbiage about this because funding changes year to year.

Dr. Galazyuk will incorporate all of the suggestions and simple edits and send the revised policy to the committee. The vote for approval of this policy was tabled to the next meeting.

Dr. Galazyuk shared that he attended a Council of Deans (COD) meeting to discuss the possibility of administration providing an additional funding for twenty students to TA at NEOMED. The Council of Deans agreed to consider this request, but they did have questions:

Why is the request being made now as opposed to last year or the year before? Dr. Galazyuk explained it was because of stimulus funds, the Iraqi students program and the expansion in research.

Will the COD be among additional sources of funding provided? Dr. Galazyuk explained that yes, other funding sources would also include the BMS program and advisors.

The COD asked how Dr. Galazyuk determined the need for funding for 20 students. He explained that he consulted with the course directors and reviewed the number of students who held a TA for the last three years.

When did he want the money? Dr. Galazyuk stated he would like the money two years from now. During the 2014/2015 academic year, KSU will support the students; during the 2015/2016 academic year, the program will need to support the students. Beginning in the 2016/2017 academic year, Administration and students' advisors will provide support to the students who are TA professional courses at NEOMED.

Dr. Zhang and Dr. Yun asked where the funds will come from to support first year students and is there a limit on the number of first year students in the program? Dr. Galazyuk will follow up with the answers to these questions.

Nichole Foster reminded the committee that when a student is awarded a grant to cover their stipend, the college rewards them with a bonus. She asked the committee if that same practice could be considered for smaller grants. Incentive funds for students who are awarded a grant for research or supplies, or anything other than a stipend. The committee decided that if the grant does not cover at least 50% of the stipend the student is not eligible for a bonus.

Nichole also shared that there continues to be issues with students receiving their pay properly who are paid by NEOMED during the academic year and then KSU for the summer. Dr. Galazyuk will talk with Dr. Mintz and July Wearden to find a solution to this situation.

Dr. Meszaros asked how many students are committed to coming into the BMS program this fall. Dr. Galazyuk shared there are nine total – two will be here and seven at KSU. He also shared there are currently 29 students on campus here at NEOMED.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next BMS Committee meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2014.