

BMS Graduate Program Committee

November 18, 2015

Room #330 in the RGEB

2:30 p.m.

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

Meeting called to order.

Dr. Galazyuk asked if there are any changes or edits to our August 19, 2015 and September 16, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion to approve, Dr. Yanqiao Zhang and seconded by Dr. Bill Lynch; all in favor; unanimous approval. Both the August 19, 2015 and September 16, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

Discussed the re-election of our committee chair and one committee member.

Based on the minutes from our December 2012 minutes, where there was a random draw to determine each committee's term for this committee; the member(s) who drew the smaller number was the first whose term would be up for vote/re-election. Sam Crish and Lisa Cooper are up for re-election by committee (and faculty members). Also up for re-election is our chair, Alex Galazyuk. Dr. Lynch entertained a motion to present this information to our BMS faculty and that the positions be rotating unless the chair wants a term-limit on them. Committee chair; one 3-year term and committee members; one 2-year term (Sam Crish and Lisa Cooper) and one 3-year term (Yanqiao Zhang and Gary Meszaros). Dr. Galazyuk will change/update language in policy to reflect the terms. Dr. Lynch discussed the idea of creating a ballot representing the term limits (2-3 years) for new and existing members, while sending to our faculty members as well to vote on. Dr. Galazyuk made a comment as other members discussed having input from BMS faculty members; he stated that he and previous director at KSU, Dr. Eric Mintz, want the BMS committee run only by faculty members, one 3-year term. Further discussed having the chair serve 1 more year and make Dr. Yanqiao Zhang's election to the following year, 2016.

The re-election would look like this:

Lisa Cooper and Sam Crish open to re-election in 2015

Gary Meszaros and Alex Galazyuk open to re-election in 2016

and Yanqiao Zhang and Bill Lynch open to re-election in 2017

Bill Lynch motioned to approve and seconded by Alex Galazyuk. Will ask our faculty if they support the terms as listed above, and notify faculty that 2 positions are open for election and will be annually thereafter, and ask if there is interest in being on committee.

Need to put some verbiage together in communications about the language of the term-limits and what the time limit is of when you can serve again.

Agenda item: Development of a new policy for monitoring student progress towards degree completion. Dr. Lynch shared with us digitally the different types of forms that our students have filled out as to their progress and what really is the best one so they don't have to fill out several continually. Need a reporting structure; a process in which to keep good, qualified students on track and in the program. What if a student is not producing; need process to streamline student's long term progress. If a student is performing poorly, we would monitor their performance. Does KSU have a policy for such; Yes, per Dr. Galazyuk. NEOMED needs something stating what our expectations are of our student's performance? Do we give such a document to our faculty? What happens when a student is not performing well; situation should come to this committee. Dr. Galazyuk says, if that's the case, he will take the situation to Dr. Ernie Freeman at KSU/BMS office.

The BMS Graduate Program Committee would like to be the mediator in facilitating a student's potential move to another advisor/lab. A student can't move to a new lab without permission of the BMS Graduate Program Committee; this needs to be updated in the student handbook/policy.

Dr. Alex Galazyuk will talk to Dr. Ernie Freeman to discuss the possibility of influencing his decision to change student advisor/lab at NEOMED. If student has trouble in lab; the committee will need to meet with PI and student in BMS meeting and BMS committee chair will take it to the BMS Executive Committee (at KSU). Power of Executive Committee; they can dismiss student from program. Any appeals would go to Executive Committee.

Miscellaneous:

Presented the idea of M.D./Ph.D. program; Dr. Ernie Freeman likes the idea. We, the BMS Graduate Program Committee will need to look at the M1 and M2 courses. Student will take 3 years to finish Ph.D. and take additional courses if necessary, e.g., BMB is approved as a grad course already so in this scenario student will not need to take again. Through further discussion we talked about the Ph.D. portion of this potential program and we need to keep communications open with the IPM program director, Dr. Denise Inman.

Meeting adjourned.