

BMS Graduate Program Committee

October 15, 2014

RGE-330 in the RGEB

9 a.m.

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Yanqiao Zhang, Gary Meszaros, Sam Crish, June Yun and Margaret Weakland (support)

Meeting called to order.

Discussed the September meeting minutes, asked if there were any changes to be made. Motion made for approval, Dr. Zhang and seconded by Dr. Crish; all in favor, unanimous approval.

Discussed developing a procedure to rotate new members on the BMS Graduate Program Committee. Dr. Galazyuk shared a policy he received from Nichole Foster who is also on the Graduate Student Forum (GSF), a student organization through the College of Graduate Studies. After reviewing the document and brief discussion, Dr. Galazyuk said he likes and supports this policy and would like to have the same approach for the rotating of faculty members in and out of the BMS Graduate Program Committee. Dr. Yun will review the policy and create something similar; hope to have a quick turn around and put out a call for nominations in for 2 weeks for NEOMED faculty who wish to rotate in and out of this committee. We will have a call for nominations for 2 weeks. We will want to start with new membership January 2015.

Discussed a strategy for estimating the number of new students we can accept each academic year. Dr. Galazyuk asked that we come up with specific categories to create a spreadsheet; Olga, in his department, will create a software program listing all of this information. Upon discussion we came up with the following information for starters; what year student is in program, benefits, tuition, stipend; type of funding source, teaching assignment, pre or post candidacy and post-prospectus. Dr. Crish volunteered to develop this spreadsheet.

Dr. Galazyuk shared that he has a Council of Deans (COD) meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> and hopes to discuss the money for teaching assignments.

Discussed our policy for financial support for NEOMED-based BMS students. Dr. Yun brought up document on conference room computer screen. Discussion started with regards to the wording of the financial support policy as well as the teaching assignment policy; wording is not consistent. The committee worked through while Dr. Yun made changes in real-time, she will send out the copy of the financial policy that we worked through with track changes so everyone can see what changes were made. Dr. Yun will email document to Margaret and will then be shared with the rest of the committee, Dr. Galazyuk wants this to be voted on via email.

Miscellaneous:

Students receiving NRSA grant funding, have in the past, received an increase of funding from NEOMED as an incentive for receiving this type of funding. These funds have most recently been awarded to Ryan

Longenecker and Nichole Foster. We have awarded both of these students an additional \$ 2,000, while this is great that they have this external funding, the students have realized that their paychecks are not that much higher from when they did not have the NRSA funding. Per KSU policy they are allowed to opt out of OPERS, but now that they have their grants and are being paid from NEOMED they were told they cannot opt out of OPERS here at NEOMED. Dr. Galazyuk asked the question of, "how do we deal with this?" If this continues to happen, Dr. Galazyuk feels that no one will want to apply for an NRSA award if the increase is not worth it. Dr. Meszaros commented on the process for his undergraduate students who are here on campus doing research for the summer and even they have to fill out all these forms and pay taxes and get monies taken out for OPERS. Dr. Galazyuk will contact the Administration and Finance department for additional detail. Decision will be re-visited at another meeting.

Dr. Galazyuk informed with committee that we finished transferring the monies from all PI's who supported their student(s) this past academic year, 2013-2014.

Dr. Galazyuk discussed and gave us some history on student Jennifer Gay. In academic year, 2013-2014, we, the BMS Graduate Program Committee decided to accept her without support. Jennifer's advisor, Dr. Rosen asked her department to support Jennifer and Dr. Wenstrup did. He paid all but Jennifer's tuition. This academic year, 2014-2015, Dr. Rosen approached Dr. Galazyuk and said she has a grant and is willing to cover everything but tuition. Jennifer will be teaching BMB in spring 2015. Dr. Galazyuk said Dr. Rosen proposed to pay half of stipend and that the other half come from the BMS funds as well as tuition and benefits too. Motion to treat Jennifer Gay like a standard student by Dr. Crish and seconded by Dr. Zhang.

A new form was recently created by Marie in our Grants Department for our PI's who want to cover their stipend expense for their student this academic year, 2014-2015. Dr. Galazyuk will circulate form. Fringes are not included on a grant that will support a student's stipend.

Discussed the involvement of having a faculty representative on the College of Graduate Studies student organization, the Graduate Student Forum (GSF). If something is discussed and potentially voted on a faculty representative should be at every meeting (or available) to assist and guide in seeking out an accurate resolution. Dr. Crish said he would be interested in doing this, committee was fine with this decision. It was recommended Dr. Crish contact Ryan Longenecker, who sought out the creation of this organization and is current president of the GSF.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting, November 19, 2014