

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting
 October 26, 2021

Meeting minutes

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Gabbie Frame, Jesse Young, Jeff Mellott, Priya Raman, Nona Hose

Absent: Takhar Kasumov, Bill Lynch

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	The meeting minutes from the September 2021 meeting were approved.	
2. BMS Program Updates from KSU	<p>Dr. Young shared that Drs. Coolen and Mintz are spear-heading a review of all of the degree program areas. They have asked department heads to review curriculum and other areas of their programs and to update their catalogs.</p> <p>The deadline for students to apply for Fall 2022 is December 1, 2021. A new program, Slate, will be utilized to review applications. There will be a standard rubric to use when reviewing applicants.</p> <p>There is no financial information available from KSU for this year yet. They are waiting for SSI from the state.</p> <p>KSU is still working on updating their website for the program.</p> <p>Dr. Coolen feels as though NEOMED faculty are not participating enough in the seminar series as well as student rotations.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk commented that students are advised regarding possible labs before rotations begin and have often chosen a lab prior to doing their rotations.</p> <p>Dr. Raman shared that department chairs play a part in this as well. Dr. Raman has taken a very active role in advising the Pharmacology students as the chair of the Pharmacology program. Dr. Raman is the only department chair from NEOMED.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated the choice of choosing an advisor is happening at multiple levels. Sometimes an undergrad or MS student who is already working in a lab wants to stay in that lab.</p> <p>Gabbie Frame added that students should be interviewing with faculty at NEOMED as a first step. NEOMED was not conveyed well when she interviewed.</p> <p>Dr. Raman stated that faculty need to be encouraged to reach out. Dr. Coolen seems to be very pro-rotations. This should help NEOMED faculty see more students.</p> <p>Dr. Young shared that Dr. Coolen will put together a catalog of available faculty for students to review. Faculty need to reach out to Dr. Coolen to be put in the catalog.</p>	

<p>3. Virtual Townhall Meeting</p>	<p>Questions that arose from the Townhall meeting were as follows: When will it be decided who will actually run the program? Is there any inclination as to who will get the vote?</p> <p>Historically, this decision has made by the Dean. Applications were reviewed and suggestions were made by the Executive Committee but ultimately the Dean appointed the person. It must be someone from KSU.</p> <p>Overall, these meetings are a good effort. Virtual meetings make it nice for more people to be able to attend.</p>	
	<p>Dr. Galazyuk opened a discussion by stating to increase the number of MD/PhD students, if the BMS program were to offer students payments for their expenses in their M3/M4 year, it may attract more students. M3 costs \$58,000 and M4 costs \$40,000. If the program would support 50% of one MD/PhD student every year (maximum of 3 students) the number is reasonable and the benefits would be three very good students whoa re likely to get NIH grant funding, which will increase the value to administration and have three solid students every year.</p> <p>Dr. Raman asked since the BMS program does not have a curriculum, how will the BMS curriculum work?</p> <p>Gabbie Frame asked what the difference is between funding an MD/PhD student versus a “regular” PhD student. How would this work with candidacy? When would they do that?</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated it may never happen, but it is something for the committee to look into and think about.</p> <p>Dr. Raman stated that if there is funding available, why do we not pay for stipends for additional BMS students?</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated that by paying for additional students, we will have to change the funding model. This is not something that should be done.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated it would be helpful to see this plan on paper.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked if the program has a sustainable amount of profit per year.</p> <p>Dr. Young explained that this is a complex issue. It depends on how many PIs have funding and what the committee decides to do regarding students.</p> <p>Gabbie Frame stated that research awards and professional development opportunities are very important to students and would be a good way to support them.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk will put together a draft of his proposal for the committee to review.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>	
<p>Agenda items for discussion at future meetings</p>		