

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting
December 15, 2021

Meeting minutes

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

Absent: Takhar Kasumov

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	The meeting minutes from the October 2021 meeting were approved.	
2. BMS Program Updates from KSU	<p>Dr. Young shared information from KSU regarding the program: The state has changed from a fiscal year to a calendar with regard to SSI. We are looking to get approximately \$1,000 back from KSU this year, but the final invoice has not yet been sent to NEOMED. The committee will move forward and make decisions based on the finds we are aware of from the cost share model at NEOMED. Things to consider funding include taking on additional students, which can be decided in March. The committee could decide to implement the policy that was drafted regarding funding opportunities for students.</p> <p>Dr. Lynch asked if this policy had been distributed to faculty. Dr. Young shared that it had not. The committee had decided not to share it until available funding within the program was better understood.</p> <p>Dr. Raman stated that faculty were not made aware of the policy at all. It should be distributed to faculty so they are aware of the possibility. Dr. Lynch agreed that the faculty should be made aware of policies that have been developed even if they are not implemented.</p> <p>Dr. Young suggested we follow the timeline outlined in the policy.</p> <p>Nona will send out the policy for the committee to review.</p>	
3. KSU Executive meeting update	<p>Dr. Raman shared that the GRE requirement as been removed from all BMS programs except Anthropology. The requirement of 21 graded hours has also been removed from admission requirements. Consistencies are being maintained among the programs. Annual evaluations are being completed for students. The timeline for prospectus was clarified: if should happen the semester after candidacy is completed.</p> <p>Faculty will need to have Slate access to review applications. All program chairs have access. The chairs will reach out to reviewers regarding access to Slate. The same process will be used as in previous years with a common rubric. There has been a huge influx of applicants from west Africa this year.</p> <p>Dr. Lynch asked how the programs will be able to evaluate applicants without the GRE. Dr. Raman stated it will be a challenge. The executive committee was asked to weigh in regarding the GRE. Many programs have dropped the GRE requirement.</p>	

	Dr. Young shared that the GRE is not well-correlated with the metrics.	
4. BMS Committee election update	Dr. Lynch and Gabbie's terms are ending at the end of the year. There are now four faculty and two student candidates. Nona will send out the ballot today.	
5. Kate Hardy stipend for Fall 2022	<p>Kate Hardy is set to defend in December of 2022. Her teaching assistantship is in Neurobiology, which is a Spring course and she will not be available to fulfill it for 2022-2023. Would the BMS program consider funding her stipend for Fall 2022?</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked what if she doesn't end up finishing and defending? Dr. Young shared it would be treated as a normal year, the committee would fund fall and she would TA in the spring.</p> <p>Dr. Lynch asked why Dr. Rosen isn't funding the Fall as she has in the past.</p> <p>Dr. Raman added that if the student's last semester doesn't include a TA, then the program shouldn't be funding them for that TA. This should be discussed case-by-case and be determined by whether or not the PI is funded.</p> <p>Dr. Lynch stated that the committee will run into problems if the practice is to automatically fund the last semester no matter when that happens. For the economic health of the program the cost share program needs to be utilized.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated that the committee will ask Dr. Rosen to fund the fall and if Kate is still here in the spring she can TA in Neurobiology. Dr. Lynch made a motion stating the above. Dr. Raman seconded the motion. The committee approved asking Dr. Rosen to fund Kate's stipend as usual and Kate will TA in the spring of 2023 if she does not defend in December 2022.</p>	
	Dr. Young polled the committee members concerning future meetings: in-person versus virtual. The meetings will continue to be virtual for 2022.	
	The meeting was adjourned.	
Agenda items for discussion at future meetings		