

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting  
February 25, 2021

**Meeting minutes**

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Gabbie Frame, Jesse Young, Jeff Mellott, Charles Thodeti, Takhar Kasumov, Priya Raman, and Nona Hose

Guests: Christian Ritter

Absent:

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	A request was made to add, "under the new University pilot compensation plan" to Dr. Mellot's comment in the meeting minutes from the January 2021 meeting. Dr. Galazyuk made amotion to approve the minutes with the edit and Dr. Raman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.	Nona will make the edit to the January 2021 meeting minutes.
2. BMS Interview Weekend	Dr. Young shared with the committee that the traditional Interview Weekend was stretched out over a two-week period from February 20 through March 6, 2021. Faculty will contact the students they would like to interview and set up meetings via Zoom.	
3. BMS Funds Flow meeting March 1	Dr. young shared that there is a meeting set up with Grants Accounting, Accounting and BMS administrative staff to discuss the funds flow. Dr. Freeman hopes that NEOMED will continue to support students from year one. It seems that NEOMED is expected to fund the students who choose to work with NEOMED faculty advisors from year one.	
4. BMS Teams site	The BMS program at NEOMED has a Teams site. Committee members have been invited to the site. Please let Nona know what information would be helpful to have on the Teams site. Suggestions included a spreadsheet with all the information about all of the students at NEOMED on it and BMS policies.	
5. BMS Associate Director position description and future stipends.	<p>Dr. Young opened the conversation by giving a brief history of the program director stipend issue for new committee members. The question at hand is does this position merit a stipend the same away NEOMED-based graduate programs do? And, does the committee want to operationalize such a stipend or drop it from discussion?</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk was asked to moderate the discussion so Dr. Young could excuse himself due to the conflict of interest. Before Dr. Young left, Dr. Galazyuk asked what his opinion of the situation is.</p> <p>Dr. Young responded that he didn't believe the role of Associate Director for BMS was more onerous than his role as the IACUC chair was; and given the current climate, he is nervous about making policies about compensation.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked in terms of workload, does Dr. Young feel like he is serving as the "president" of a program or the "president" of a committee? he responded president of a committee.</p> <p>Dr. Young excused himself and the committee continued the discussion. The committee made several points with regard to funding a stipend for the Associate Director including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The account is being depleted.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University's compensation plan should take care of these things – once it is established.</li> <li>• The workload of the Associate Director is not huge, not close to a program director of a NEOMED-based program.</li> <li>• Policy development was done to make the role of the Associate Director even less onerous.</li> </ul> <p>The committee reached the agreement that the role of Associate Director of the BMS graduate program does not merit an annual stipend.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>	
<p>Agenda items for discussion at future meetings</p>		