

## BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting

April 29, 2021

### Meeting minutes

Present: Alex Galazyuk, Gabbie Frame, Jesse Young, Jeff Mellott, Charles Thodeti, Takhar Kasumov

Absent: Priya Raman and Nona Hose

Guest: Faye Safadi

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	The meeting minutes from the March meeting will need to be approved at the May meeting.	
2. Possible student lab transfer	<p>Dr. Thodeti has accepted a full professor position at the University of Toledo and will be leaving NEOMED June 30, 2021. His BMS student, Neha Bhavnani will not be moving with him and needs to transfer to another NEOMED lab. Neha has passed her candidacy and is good academic standing, but she has not chosen a dissertation topic yet. She will be entering her third year of the program in the Fall.</p> <p>Dr. Young shared that he spoke with Neha and her first lab preference is Dr. Priya Raman's lab, but Dr. Raman does not have adequate funding to take on another student at this time. Neha also approached Dr. Faye Safadi and he has agreed to take her on in his lab. Dr. Young shared that Dr. Safadi is requesting the BMS program support her third year due to the special circumstances of her situation.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the policy for student lab transfers.</p> <p>Both PIs currently have two graduate students in their lab and both will need to have funding support from the program if they take on another student, even if just short term. The committee members agreed that the most important thing to consider is the best fit for the student.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated that if the program is going to fund Neha, he wants to have another conversation with Neha and Dr. Raman before a decision is made.</p> <p>Committee members agreed that the PI should take over the funding of the student as soon as funds are available in their labs.</p> <p>Dr. Safadi joined the meeting to discuss bringing Neha into his lab.</p> <p>Dr. Safadi shared with the committee that Neha had reached out to him to see if he had an available spot for another graduate student in his lab. He told her he was happy to have her in his lab, but it is up to the committee to approve the transfer. He stated he does not have funds available to support her currently, but he has a few grants pending. He is requesting the committee fund her third year if she transfers into his lab and then he can support her after that.</p>	

	<p>Dr. Galazyuk asked what students are currently in Dr. Safadi's lab. Nazar Hussein is a BMS student who will be defending in the next month or so, and he has an IPM student. Dr. Galazyuk asked if he supported his students to which he replied that he had not gotten a request for support for his students this year. he currently has an RO1 and a subcontract. He will use the RO1 for the IPM student.</p> <p>Dr. Safadi was asked if he would be supportive of the student transferring to another PIs lab if they would prefer to go there. Dr. Safadi responded he would never prevent a student from going to another lab if they wanted to. He is just trying to assist the student in her program and help her to successfully complete her degree program.</p> <p>With no other questions from the committee, Dr. Safadi left the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Young asked the committee if they had comments.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk suggested all possible PIs be approached about Neha, including Dr. Raman.</p> <p>Dr. Thodeti reiterated that Neha preferred to work in Dr. Raman's lab originally, but since Dr. Raman has no funding, she approached Dr. Safadi.</p> <p>Dr. Young will reach out to Dr. Raman, keeping the student's best interest in mind. If the program is going to fund the student anyway, the same offer needs to be made to Dr. Raman.</p> <p>The committee agreed to talk to Dr. Raman first. Dr. Mellott commented that the committee shouldn't put a student in a lab that they are not truly interested in working in just because they are able to be funded. What is the impact of the program funding a student?</p> <p>Dr. Young explained the KSU/ NEOMED budget and how the funding is affected.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk explained that the committee can determine how much money will be received from PIs supporting their students each year, although there are variables that do not make it guaranteed, for example, when a PI loses funding.</p> <p>Dr. Young will reach out to Priya and report back to the committee.</p>	
<p>3. Upcoming committee vacancy</p>	<p>With Dr. Thodeti's departure comes the need to fill his position on the committee. There is a policy in place that the committee will follow, but it will have to wait until Nona is back in the office as she will send out the communication to BMS faculty.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott suggested the committee reach out to Dr. Christine Crish as she had been nominated during the last election.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated she can re-nominate herself if she is still interested when the call for nominations goes out.</p> <p>Dr. Young also pointed out that in January, the committee elected Dr. Thodeti to be the vice-chair of the committee. this position will fill in for Dr. Young when he is unavailable and will be mentored to become the next Associate Director of the BMS program as the time gets closer. Dr. Young has spoken with and would like to make a motion to nominate Dr. Mellott as the new vice chair of the</p>	

	committee. Dr. Galazyuk seconded the motion. The committee approved Dr. Mellott as the new vice chair of the BMS Graduate Program Committee.	
4. Update on Annual NEOMED BMS faculty/student meeting	<p>Dr. Young shared with the committee that the Annual NEOMED BMS Faculty and Student Forum will take place May 5, 2021. Dr. Young will give a 30-minute update to faculty and students, Dr. Ernie Freeman from KSU will join the meeting at 3:30 to provide an update of the BSM program overall.</p> <p>Dr. Young shared a document from Dr. Chris Ritter on action items from the last Annual BMS meeting with Dr. Freeman from 2019.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk suggested Dr. Young discuss the financial situation of the program so faculty can understand that their contribution to the program is important.</p>	
	The meeting was adjourned.	
Agenda items for discussion at future meetings		