

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting

May 25, 2021

Meeting minutes

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

Absent: N/A

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	The meeting minutes from the April meeting will need to be approved at the May meeting.	
2. Review student travel policy – reimburse more travel costs than presenting at conferences	<p>Dr. Young shared with the committee that his BMS student, Angela Mossor, would like to travel to Costa Rica to do research. The current travel policy states travel funding is for presenting at conferences. Should the current travel policy be revised to include research travel aside from presenting at conferences?</p> <p>Dr. Thodeti suggested these requests should be considered case-by-case. Angela's request is agreeable and the committee should allow for it.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk asked if students should be allowed to choose to use the travel funding for either conference travel or research travel.</p> <p>Dr. Young said yes, let them choose, but not to exceed the annual amount.</p> <p>Dr. Raman suggested the committee talk about the two issues at hand separately. 1. Revise the travel policy and 2. Discuss Dr. Young's student's situation. She feels it should be OK for students to utilize the funds for either research or conferences.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk pointed out that if the policy is revised, it isn't a one-time deal. It will be in effect going forward. Are their funds available to support this?</p> <p>Dr. Young pointed out that this could also fall under the policy that was written last year regarding using BMS funds for specified purposes.</p> <p>Dr. Kasumov stated he thinks it is a great idea if funding is available and it should apply to all students.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated that whatever the committee decides to do it should be written in the policy.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated the committee needs to be very careful about making changes to policies at the request of BMS committee members. If the program had plenty of funds, it would be great, but since it doesn't, the committee shouldn't change the policy, but keep it in mind for future.</p>	Dr. Young will draft a policy to circulate to the committee.

<p>3. Neha Bhavnani lab transfer from Thodeti to Raman</p>	<p>Dr. Young reviewed the situation regarding Neha’s lab transfer with the committee. after the last BMS Committee meeting, Dr. Young spoke to Neha and Dr. Raman. Transferring to Dr. Raman’s lab would be a better fit for Neha. Dr. Raman does not have funding for the next academic year and would need the committee/program to support Neha’s third year.</p> <p>Dr. Raman shared that she has submitted grants. She currently has two BMS students in her lab. Saugat is expected to defend and graduate in one year. Shreya is currently funded. Dr. Raman will support Neha with one of the grants she has submitted for this Fall.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated that since she is supporting two students now, the committee should not expect her to support a third student, given the situation. He agrees that the program should support Neha’s third year.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk made a motion that the program support Neha’s third year and allow her to transfer to Dr. Raman’s lab. Dr. Kasumov seconded the motion. The transfer request and funding were approved.</p>	
<p>4. Review student funding policy – “Junior Faculty” definition</p>	<p>Some of the BMS faculty claim that their student is their “first student” who joined their lab while they were junior faculty, even though they are no longer junior. Dr. Young asked the committee if the current funding policy change when a junior faculty member has been promoted.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk confirmed that the current policy states they should.</p> <p>Dr. Young suggested that Becky and Amanda in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs ask faculty if they want to have a graduate student when the faculty member is submitting a grant.</p> <p>Dr. Thodeti stated if tuition is involved, it cannot be done; fellowships only are allowed.</p> <p>Dr. Raman stated she budgets for tech support and then uses it for graduate students. The policy doesn’t have to read “external funds.” It should just read “funds” as discretionary funds could also be used.</p> <p>Dr. Young pointed out there are two issues at hand.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For junior faculty, do we continue to fund the student even if the faculty member is promoted? 2. Better communication is needed about what is expected when faculty are applying for grants. They need to budget for graduate students. <p>Dr. Mellott stated he doesn’t think the rank of faculty matters if the student needs funding.</p> <p>Dr. Young doesn’t think junior faculty should have to use start-up funds for a student. Start-up funds should be used to get the faculty to a point where they can apply for additional funding.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated it should say in the policy that start-up funds should not be expected to be used for graduate students.</p> <p>Dr. Young agreed with Dr. Galazyuk but added that when faculty obtain funding, they are expected to support their student.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk suggested removing “external” from the policy and replace with “substantial.”</p>	<p>Drs. Mellott and Young will review the policy and draft revisions to present to the committee.</p>

	<p>Dr. Raman stated that some junior PI's have R01's already and should be allowed to use their start-up funds for students if they choose to.</p>	
<p>5. Emily Simons – summer tuition (\$167.00)</p>	<p>Dr. Sam Crish's student, Emily Simons, is extending into the summer even though she is defending in June. Would the committee be willing to fund the \$167.00 she is being charged for summer tuition?</p> <p>Dr. Mellott asked why, on principle, the PI would fund this?</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk made a motion to approve the funding request. Dr. Kasumov seconded the motion. The funding request was approved.</p>	
<p>6. 6th year and beyond students</p>	<p>Dr. Young asked the committee to think about asking students moving into their 6th year to come to the BMS Graduate Program Committee meeting with their advisors to present the plan for their degree completion.</p>	
<p>7. Resignation of Dr. Ernie Freeman as the BMS Director at KSU.</p>	<p>Dr. Ernie Freeman is resigning as BMS Director at Kent State University. Drs. Lique Coolen and Eric Mintz are going to fill the roll intermittently.</p>	
<p>8. Replacing Dr. Thodeti on the BMS Graduate Program Committee</p>	<p>There needs to be an election to replace Dr. Thodeti on the BMS Graduate Program Committee. Nona will start the election process this week.</p>	
<p>Extra item</p>	<p>Do we require graduate students to take FERPA training? If not, we should because they are working with medical students and could have access to those students' information. Dr. Young and Nona will work on this.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk suggested that every year in July or August, the committee should review the "big invoice" from KSU and the annual stipend support from PIs to monitor the overall funds of the program.</p> <p>Dr. Young shared that Cynthia Ledford is gathering TA information for the College of Medicine, but the BMS committee will determine match TA opportunities and students.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated graduate students can teach, but cannot grade other graduate students.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>	
<p>Agenda items for discussion at future meetings</p>		