

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting

June 23, 2021

Meeting minutes

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

Absent: Takhar Kasumov

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	The meeting minutes from the May meeting were approved.	
2. Lab Assignment Request for new 2021 student, Amy Shiyab – Dr. Yanqiao Zhang	<p>Dr. Yanqiao Zhang would like to admit Amy Shiyab, a new BMS student starting the Fall of 2021, into his lab as a Research Assistant (RA). Dr. Zhang has funding resources to support Amy even though he already has two BMS students in his lab.</p> <p>Concerns and concerns from the committee are as follows:</p> <p>Q - Do we know why she isn't going to do any rotations? A – No, but she was one of the top students who applied to the program.</p> <p>Q – Does the new BMS leadership at KSU allow students to not do rotations? A – in the past rotations have not been mandatory. This will be verified for current students.</p> <p>A concern is that the advisor may force the student to not rotate. Dr. Raman stated she has spoken to the student about coursework and Amy is stated she wants to join Dr. Zhang's lab.</p> <p>Q – Does the policy state that students must do Teaching Assistant (TA) assignments during their first two years? A – No, there is an exception in the policy for RA's.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated he had no concerns and made a motion to approve Dr. Zhang's request to have Amy Shiyab join his lab as an RA in the Fall. Dr. Raman seconded the motion. The request was approved by the committee.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott suggested the policy be revised to clarify the exception to TA-ing that is made for RA's.</p>	
3. Membership election to replace Dr. Thodeti update	Nona provided the committee with an update regarding the election to replace Dr. Charles Thodeti on the BMS Graduate Program Committee. So far, the votes are tied at 13 each for Drs. Bill Lynch and Woo Shik Shin. Faculty have until Friday to cast their votes.	Nona will send out another reminder to BMS faculty.
4. Teaching Assistant assignments	<p>There are 4 students who still need a teaching assistant assignment and there are six courses that still need TAs.</p> <p>Gabbie Frame asked if she could TA in both Neurobiology and Dr. Christine Crish's new course. The two courses do not over-lap and</p>	

	<p>the combined workload should not exceed that of one TA assignment.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated that he does not want to set a precedent, but this could be allowable on a case-by-case basis. It will be nominally OK as long as both TA assignments do not together total more than 520 hours.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott shared with the committee that Drs. Ernie Freeman and John Johnson at KSU had said that graduate students cannot teach other graduate students. How does NEOMED approach this issue with Neurobiology?</p> <p>Dr. Raman stated that IPM students are not teaching graduate-level courses. Med-Neuro is a College of Medicine course – the main audience is medical students, although graduate student are permitted to take it as well.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk stated if graduate students are taking the course then it is a graduate-level course. Dr. Young may need to take this to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Dr. Mellott: Every year BMS students TA Medical Neurobiology and graduate students take the course.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk suggested at this point, do nothing, but bring it up for future discussion.</p> <p>Dr. Young stated there are many reasons to keep the current practice in place. There is no reason to change it at this point. There may be exception for NEOMED because there isn't an undergraduate population. He is meeting with the new co-directors of the BMS program at KSU on July 15. Does Neurobiology need as many TAs as was requested?</p> <p>Dr. Mellott stated there is anticipation that the course will go back to a full lab schedule in which case, yes, it will need them.</p> <p>Dr. Young will reach out to course directors who do not have TAs to see if they actually need them.</p>	
5. BMS Graduate Program Research Grants policy review	<p>Dr. Young shared that there is a policy in place where students can apply for research grants. It hasn't been advertised yet. According to the policy, the committee will not declare there are funds available and/or how much is available until December of each year.</p>	
6. Lucy Coughlin	<p>Dr. Young shared with the committee that he has been in contact with Dr. Denise Inman regarding Lucy Coughlin. He would like to suggest that if faculty leave NEOMED while they are advising students, and the student stays at NEOMED, the faculty advisor needs to appoint a co-advisor that is still at NEOMED. Dr. Young will look through BMS policies pertaining to faculty advisors and will update it to include this statement. The policy revision will be brought to the committee for review and approval.</p>	
Extra item	<p>Dr. Young asked the committee if they would prefer future meetings to be held via Zoom, in-person or a hybrid?</p> <p>The committee decided to stay Zoom for the summer and discuss it again in August.</p>	
	<p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>	

Agenda items for discussion at future meetings

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