

BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting

July 29, 2021

Meeting minutes

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

Absent: N/A

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Approval of prior meeting minutes	There was a suggested edit to the June meeting minutes. The amended meeting minutes from the June meeting were approved.	
2. Welcome Dr. Lynch to the committee	Dr. Young welcomed Dr. Lynch to the committee. Dr. Lynch introduced himself to Gabbie Frame, the only person on the committee that he did not know.	
3. Meeting with Drs. Lique Coolen and Eric Mintz at KSU.	<p>Dr. Young shared that he met with the interim co-directors of the BMS program at KSU in mid-July. He shared with the committee that Dr. Coolen is taking a front-facing role in the program and is meeting with students and faculty as well as answering emails concerning the program. Dr. Mintz is taking a more internal to KSU role.</p> <p>Dr. Coolen has several ideas for change for the program but has also stated that she considers herself an interim placeholder. She is concerned about the lack of rotations of students in recent years. Many students identify an advisor prior to entering the program. Dr. Coolen thinks when this happens the PI should fund the student 100% from day one. She wants all PIs to have equal access to students.</p> <p>Dr. Raman stated she thinks it is a good idea to enforce student rotations.</p> <p>Dr. Young agrees and thinks the rotations broaden a student's experience and skills.</p> <p>Dr. Lynch shared that historically the decision to rotate or not was left up to the director of the program to allow.</p> <p>Dr. Galazyuk added that historically rotations were required, but Dr. Freeman was lenient about it. Rotations are a good idea and students should do at least two before they choose their advisor. KSU will need to decide how to handle rotations and we will have to follow their decision. They cannot tell us how to fund the students though.</p> <p>Dr. Young shared that Dr. Coolen does not support coming to NEOMED to meet with faculty. She would rather have an all BMS faculty meeting at KSU. Incoming Master's degree students course requirements have changed. They need to have 21 credit hours as opposed to 21 graded credits. Advisors should recommend coursework based on their student's needs. Dr. Coolen will also have monthly executive meetings in an effort to improve communication.</p>	

4. 2021-2022 Student Funding	PIs were asked to complete stipend approval forms for their students. The committee reviewed the program's students funding to date. It is projected that the PIs will provide approximately \$140,000 to fund students this academic year. The committee will review the annual financial information at the October or November meeting.	
5. BMS New Student Orientation	New student orientation at KSU is the week of August 23. Dr. Coolen wants the students to stay at KSU all week and come to NEOMED for a tour at a later date. she has not sent the date to Dr. Young yet. He will follow up with her and inform the committee.	
6. Student healthcare reimbursement for 2021-2022	The Healthcare Reimbursement Policy is reviewed annually by the committee. If funds are available, the program will pay the 30% healthcare premium for students who are based at NEOMED. The program paid out \$13,000 to students by reimbursing them for their healthcare premiums. Dr. Lynch made a motion to reimburse student for their healthcare premiums for 2021-2022. Dr. Raman seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to reimburse students for the cost of the 30% healthcare premium for the 2021-2022 academic year.	Nona will email the students and inform them of the decision.
	The meeting was adjourned.	
Agenda items for discussion at future meetings		