BMS Graduate Program Committee Meeting August 24, 2021

Meeting minutes

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

Absent: Alex Galazyuk

	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1.	Approval of prior meeting minutes	The meeting minutes from the July 2021 meeting were approved.	
2.	BMS Travel Award	Dr. Young shared with the committee that KSU offers \$400 for domestic travel per year to students. NEOMED-based students historically have received \$500 form the COGS and \$1,000 from the BMS program at NEOMED. The approved COGS budget does not include funds to support travel for student this fiscal year.	
		Some travel funds for IPM students was approved during the budgeting process for the IPM program's budget. Dr. Schmidt will provide a supplement for IPM students from his discretionary funds.	
		Dr. Young would like to make a motion to have the BMS program support \$1,500 for student travel to conferences for this academic year only and revise the policy moving forward to reflect the changes to student travel funding. He stated that given the cost share model this year, the program can afford to pick up the additional \$500 supplement per student for this year. The committee reviewed the current travel reimbursement policy.	
		Dr. Lynch asked what else the funds could be used for aside from travel. How is the program able to pay for this?	
		Dr. Young explained the funds flow between KSU and NEOMED and the cost share program.	
		Dr. Kasumov asked who has authority over the funds.	
		Dr. Young and Dr. Schmidt have authority over the index, but the committee makes the decisions as to how the money is spent.	
		Dr. Lynch asked if this money could instead fund additional students to the program. Should the committee provide more benefits to current students or be able to support more students?	
		Dr. Raman pointed out that there aren't many conferences happening this year.	
		Gabbie stated that the issue she had is that the information was not communicated to the students.	
		Dr. Lynch seconded the motion made by Dr. Young to fund the additional \$500 per student this year. The additional travel funding for this academic year was approved by the committee.	

3.	Update regarding Kent State BMS	Dr. Young shared that orientation for new BMS students was yesterday. Students will be at NEOMED tomorrow for a campus tour and to have their badges made. Dr. Coolen said the enrollment in the seminar series for new students didn't have much NEOMED representation and she wants lab rotations to be required for students. The meeting was adjourned.	
	enda items for discussion at future etings		