**Neuroscience Faculty Advisory Committee**

**IQ Bldg., Room 3000**

**February 21, 2020**

**Attendance**: Jim Galligan, Gina Leinninger, Michelle Mazei-Robison, Wilmarie Morales-Soto (student rep), Greg Swain, Alexa Veenema, and Scott Counts

**Old Business**

1. Action Item: Approve minutes from FAC meeting minutes from January 17, 2020

* Motion to Approve: Gina Leinninger
* Second: Alexa Veenema
* Motion passes

**New Business**

1. Discussion Item: Graduate Recruiting Updates – Greg Swain
   * Greg informed the committee that 11 offers have been extended, and one offer has been accepted. The candidate that accepted is Brooke Devries from Michigan State University. Greg continued that an interview is scheduled next week for candidate Lauren Wade over Zoom. Greg also said there is a Fulbright Scholar who has applied to the program; the candidate is a Master’s student from Egypt. The Fulbright scholarship hasn’t been confirmed yet, but Greg believes he will be extended an offer once it has been.
   * Gina asked for clarification on what the Fulbright scholarship is
   * Greg responded that the purpose of the Fulbright program is to take students from countries outside the United States to get education. The goal is that the students will then return home to take their experience, skills, and education to serve as a seed for improved education.
   * Gina asked if the program was intended for a Master’s degree, would it cover two years?
   * Greg responded that it covers two years. Greg continued that the scholarship is usually for a Master’s degree because the program does not want the students away from their home countries for a long period of time.
   * Gina thanked Greg for explaining.
   * Alexa asked about the other candidates that were extended offers. She also wondered if the faculty could be updated about the new extended offers.
   * Greg said he would send out an update to the faculty.
2. Discussion Item: Henry Center Discussion – Jim Galligan/Eleri Thomas

* Jim wanted to discuss the recruiting efforts this year, specifically regarding the Henry Center. Jim continued that the program thought it would be more expensive than the Kellogg Center, but it happened to be about $1,200 more. Jim said this came as a surprise, so he is looking for opinions on the Kellogg Center and the Henry Center.
* Alexa added that she liked the Henry Center.
* Michelle said that the Henry Center was very nice but wasn’t necessarily worth more than the Kellogg Center. She added that both serves the purpose and are convenient.
* Alexa inquired about what was more expensive at the Henry Center.
* Jim said the rooms were actually cheaper at the Henry Center. There was a dinner reception at the Henry Center, while in past years the reception has been held at Jim’s house. There was also continued continental breakfast, while last year it was held at the Brody dining hall on campus.
* There was generally discussion about the food options for the Thursday night reception this year. There was general agreement that the choices were mainly appetizers, and that this was not enough food for the faculty or for the candidates.
* Jim explained that the idea behind serving hors d’oeuvre for dinner came from the Henry Center meeting planner. He made this suggested when he showed Jim and Eleri the room and bar for dinner. Jim said if we decide to use the Henry Center next year, different dinner options and catering will be considered.
* Greg suggested that the candidates could do dinner on their own at the Henry Center’s U-Club restaurant, and then gather afterward at the reception for drinks and hors d’oeuvre.
* Michelle agreed that dinner on their own might give them a chance to decompress for a while before socializing again.
* Greg added that he liked the Henry Center more, overall. He suggested that maybe there was a way to negotiate and work with the Henry Center for some cost-savings.
* Jim asked Scott Counts how recruiting was overall for Grand Rapids.
* Scott answered that recruiting went as scheduled. Scott said hopefully Grand Rapids feedback was helpful in selecting the candidates, and that Caryl Sortwell was a huge help in organizing recruitment for Grand Rapids.

1. Discussion Item: Comprehensive Exams 2020 – Greg Swain
   * Greg reported that the dates for the Comprehensive Exams: May 3-8 will be the controversy, May 10-15 for the translational problem, and May 17-22 for proposal topic selection. Greg stated there are five students that will be taking the exam this year.
   * Greg asked Scott Counts if he went to Melissa McDaniel’s mentoring workshop that was held in Grand Rapids two weeks prior.
   * Scott replied that they did attend; the faculty went in the morning and the student attended in the afternoon. Melissa offered several different forms that they will incorporate into their onboarding process with new students as they come into the lab.
   * Greg said that Melissa’s workshop would be offered in May for the East Lansing campus. Greg wondered what kind of participation Melissa was receiving from the workshop.
   * Scott added that the workshop was very well attended in Grand Rapids.
2. Discussion Item: Feedback from First Year Students on Curriculum – Greg Swain
   * Greg reported that they had a meeting to go over comments from the first years on the curriculum. The first year students had met with a few faculty to give critics and strong points of their first semester curriculum. The students are currently working on an official document with these comments. Greg said he will try to bring this report to the next FAC meeting so we can begin thinking of ways to implement changes to improve the quality of the courses.
3. New Business:

* Jim shared that Krishna got an F30 award. This means four years of funding for Krishna: two while he is working toward his PhD, and two more years of funding once he goes back to medical school. The funding will begin in April. Krishna and Jim also plan to attend the international Digestive Disease Week taking place in May; Krishna submitted an abstract and was invited to speak at the meeting. He is doing very well, and Jim is very proud. Yay Krishna!
* Jim asked everyone how things were coming along in the new ISTB building.
* Michelle said there are still little things, but they have had behavior up and running now and things are going okay. This is very good news!
* Jim reported that Giltner is now a ghost town.
* Alexa and Alex Johnson still have offices in Giltner, but they are hoping to keep these spaces.
* Jim said he would be happy to speak on behalf of these offices being kept by our faculty.

1. No Old Business:

* Our next FAC meeting is Friday, March 20 at 10:30am

Meeting adjourned: 11:20am