**NEU Faculty meeting minutes**

**February 22, 2017**

**101 Giltner Hall**

Attended: Brian Gulbransen, Ashlee Rowe, Laura Symonds, Kanchan Pavangadkar, Jenny Taylor, Casey Henley, A.J. Robison, Michelle Mazei-Robison, and Jim Galligan.

Meeting began at 9:02 am

1. **Update on Graduate Recruiting, 2017 Galligan**

Jim Galligan reported 8 students were offered admission to the Neuroscience program for Fall Semester 2017. Below is a list of students offered admission:

* Jake Aronowitz
* Rebecca Dangremond
* Amber Garrison
* Devon Greer
* Wilmarie Morales-Soto
* Roberto Lopez
* Shenee Martin
* Caleb Wood

Wilmarie, Shenee, and Roberto were awarded the University Enrichment Fellowship (UEF). This fellowship is highly competitive with only 20 incoming students receiving it every year.

Roberto is awaiting his acceptance from the MD program before he will commit to the program. This is a formality since the MD program put him forth for a UEF.

Shenee is ironing out some details regarding her UEF and summer 2017 funding. She is very interested as well. She previously worked with Irving Vega and has been in contact with him.

Devon Greer, Caleb Wood and Amber Garrison are waiting to hear back from a few places.

No one has heard from Jake Aronowitz.

Currently, two students, Wilmarie Morales-Soto and Rebecca Dangremond, have committed to attending MSU in the Fall Semester.

1. **Update on faculty searches Symonds and Galligan**

Laura reported the fixed-term faculty interviews have started. Two interviews were conducted on February 21st, three more will take place on February 24th, and the final interview will occur on February 27th. The hopes of the committee are to have the narrowed down list to Cindy by Friday, March 3rd.

Laura indicated candidates were told that we will not communicate who is on the short list until the list has been approved by the University, which can take up to 2-3 weeks.

Jim mentioned the strategic hiring plan, how it is on the backburner due to the Universities approve for a new building. During the December 2016 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved the funding for a new building. In late December, he was asked to put together a proposal for Neuroscience to be housed in the new building.

Jim indicated over the past two months there have been numerous meetings with the Provost, Chairs, and Associate Deans, each meeting the group got smaller and smaller. With the outcome of two main groups being recommended to go into the new building. The proposed programs: Reproductive Biology and Neuroscience. While this isn’t a done deal, it is highly probable outcome for Neuroscience to land in the building.

Neuroscience would have two floors in the new building. All existing NEU faculty with the exception of Jim Galligan, Cheryl Sisk, Marc Breedlove, and Cindy Jordan, having the opportunity to go into the building. In the proposal submitted in December, there would be 4 new faculty hires as well. In addition to NEU faculty, there is room for Adam Moser, Alexa Veenema, Amy Arguello, Alex Johnson, Joe Lonstein, Lily Yan, and Gina Leinninger. Jim reported that NEU faculty are not obligated to move to the new building, but it is an opportunity to being faculty who do similar things together in one space. It will create a synergy for research together that is currently lacking in the University.

AJ Robison inquired as to room for Lee Cox. Jim indicated that the new building would not house administrative office space. The building is a purely research building.

Jenny Taylor asked for updates on the science lab teaching building, Jim indicated there are no updates at the present time.

Construction on the new building is slated to begin in May 2017 with completion anticipated Fall Semester 2019. In an effort to be cost effective, the University will be using existing plans from the new building in Grand Rapids. There can be suggestions for changes, but the changes cannot be structural (i.e. add a wall), however you can merge spaces together, if needed. You can visit the new building in Grand Rapids to get a feel how the building will flow.

Jenny asked if this new building will have an auditorium or classrooms. Jim indicated no classroom or auditorium space, however there will be meeting rooms, as well as seminar space in the building.

The long term strategy is to house all the biomedical sciences on the south side of campus.

1. **Old Business**

Casey Henley reported the Medical Neuroscience graduate certificate was approved by the University last semester. The certificate program is accepting applications. To date, there are 2 completed applications, 3 more applications in process, as well as 6 inquiries for information.

There has been minimal advertising done for the program, however we are getting hits from the places we have advertised.

AJ indicated that he has been advertising the program in his class and was wondering if any students had applied. There has been one MSU student to inquire about information.

Casey stated the Neuroscience and the Law graduate certificate is still going through the red tape of the University. With hopes that by this time next year we will be accepting applications.

1. **New Business**

Jenny reported there are 4 lab sections of NEU 311L this semester. Each lab has 1 TA and 1 lab assistant.

Kanchan Pavangadkar stated there will be 105 NEU students graduating, she is unsure of how many students will declare NEU as their major. The bulk do not declare until after Spring Break. To assist her with the bulk of advising, she will be training senior NEU undergrad students to assist with peer advising. Kanchan will conduct a training session for the peer advisors. The advising will be on courses only with Kanchan being present in the room. The peer advising program should be for 3 hours a week for 6 weeks. The peer advising will assist with the number of students being seen at a time, instead of 1 student seen every 2 minutes, depending on the number of peer advisors there can be up to 6 seen at a time.

In addition to peer advising, Kanchan is working on internship funding for the undergraduate students. She will be sending out an email with a link for Backup Brains internships to the committee to distribute in class.

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Minutes were respectfully submitted by Julie Delgado on February 22, 2017