**Neuroscience Faculty Advisory Committee**

**IQ Bldg., Room 3000**

**January 17, 2020**

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

**Old Business**

1. Action Item: Approve minutes from FAC meeting minutes from November 15, 2019

* Motion to Approve: Michelle Mazei-Robison
* Second: Alexa Veenema
* Motion passes

**New Business**

1. Discussion Item: Training Grant – Jim Galligan
   * Jim brought a copy of a training roster spreadsheet. said the College of Natural Science Grant’s Office is going to provide a lot of support, including reaching out to faculty on the training roster to collect bio-sketches and current funding. Jim asked the office to track down grant support of all faculty; most of the faculty on the training roster need to have grants to support grad students and research projects. There are 48 faculty on the list – most of the faculty are funded already, so this is a pretty good roster. It will be a year from this coming May that the grant will be funded, if we are successful.
   * Marc had a question of how Jim acquired this list from all the faculty affiliated with Neuroscience?
   * Jim responded that there are about 60 other faculty that are not as active as they should be. Jim asked to let him know if there are names currently missing from the roster. Jim added that if everyone is okay with this list, the College may start contacting you for information.
   * Jim spoke to Dean Phil Duxbury, and Phil is interested in getting more training grants within the College of Natural Science – there are currently only five T32 grants on campus. Compared to other universities, we are second to last in gaining T32. Phil would like to encourage more faculty to do this. One of the things Phil would like to do to incentivize this is matching funds. For example, if we ask for six positions to support students, there will be some level of matching funds that will come from CNS and the Graduate School as well. It would be great if we could support all first year graduate students on the training grant and not program funds. The T32 the program is applying for this year will focus on funding first and second year graduate students. After the students have chosen a lab and begin their projects, they will be eligible to be on another kind of T32 grant.
   * Marc added that from all federal funds put together, you can only have three years of funding. For example, if you have a year of funding from one T32, and then two more years of funding from another, then that’s all the funding one can receive.
   * Alexa asked if six students would get this funding on an annual basis for five years, and then we would apply to renew the grant?
   * Jim confirmed this is correct.
   * Alexa asked if we could ask for more than six positions?
   * Jim responded that it depends on the size of the program. If a program has 60 graduate students, a program could possibly get 20. Our program is right around 28 students, so it would be ideal to get six.
   * Alexa added that with budget cuts, it might be best to ask for more in anticipation of getting less.
   * Jim said we since our program is growing, we should be trying to expand our funding and the number of incoming students. There is still room for growth in the program.
   * Jim also wanted to discuss is NEU 804 and NEU 839. We now have new courses to cover these materials. Jim asked if there was any reason to keep these on the books?
   * There was general agreement that these were not necessary to keep, and that they
2. Discussion Item: Graduate Student Recruitment – Greg Swain

* Marc provided the committee with a run-down of the schedule, and Michelle was able to e-mail the recruitment itinerary to the committee.
* There was general discussion of logistics for lab tours, and to give the candidates a choice of which labs they would like to visit.
* Jim encouraged participation in the Thursday night reception, taking place Thursday, January 23 from 7–9pm.
* Scott provided an update for recruitment in Grand Rapids. They will begin with introductions and tours, and then have a lunch. There will be lab presentations from five different labs, and then candidate interviews. Grand Rapids is ready and excited!

1. Discussion Item: Student Feedback on New Curriculum – Greg Swain
   * This discussion item was tabled for next time as Greg was unable to meet
2. Discussion Item: Giltner Hall – Gina Leinninger
   * Gina brought up a concern about Giltner Hall and the new Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building (ISTB). Giltner is considered “dirty” due to suspected pinworm within the building. Students are allowed to be on the first floor of Giltner Hall; however, they can’t go onto any other floors/the teaching lab/lab space and then enter the ISTB building without showering. This is problematic when it comes to having classes in Giltner, when graduate students are expected to conduct research in the ISTB building afterwards.
   * Alexa brought up a good point that pinworm have a timeline of survival without a host. Marc also added there are many other rules and confusion with this building. The hope is that over the summer, people will relax about this.
   * There was a general question of what is going to happen to the teaching lab, and other courses in Giltner Hall?
   * Jim responded that the Neuroscience teaching lab will still be in Giltner for the near future.
   * Gina brought up the point that if there are graduate courses in Giltner Hall, we need to begin thinking about where they should be. There was agreement and discussion of logistics of which buildings would be a best for courses.
   * Eleri will check for the conference rooms in BPS for the Fall 2020 graduate classes to be held.
3. New Business: Our next FAC meeting is Friday, February 21 at 10:30am
4. No Old Business

Meeting adjourned: 11:06am