**Neuroscience Program Faculty Advisory Committee meeting**

**January 22, 2016**

**Present: Sortwell, Hegg, Miller, Sisk, Symonds, Jordan, Breedlove, Galligan, and Kneynsberg (Grad Rep)**

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

**Welcome Julie Delgado**

* Welcome Julie Delgado to the Neuroscience program. Julie comes to us from MSU Extension. Julie replaced Jim Stockmeyer who has retired.

**Continued discussion on Research Forum (Jordan/Kneynsberg)**

* Andrew reported after the survey of graduate students. He met with Nicole Polinski and Sarah Cooper to go over the results and how changes could be implemented to Research Forum. Improving topics to be more cohesive units to make forum a modular system.
* Some of the survey findings reported were students feel that forum topics were repeated yearly and the mandatory attendance.

The time of forum, currently it is after 5:00 pm for 60 minutes but moving the time to 3:30 – 5:00 pm might make it better and easier to get speakers. There seems to be logistical issues and an earlier time may elevate some of those issues.

* Andrew proposed several changes to forum to assist students along the way.
  + Alter the number of talks during a day since it is not long enough for feedback
  + Additional short talk between proposal defense.
* Topics will stay same requiring students to participate in BAW
* Peter Cobbett wondered if forum was a credit course. Forum is Pass/Fail. If requires for forum change do the changes need to go through the University? Also, how many forums until you don’t pass?
* Jim Galligan inquired about brain awareness school visits? Casey has sent out a request for school visits. Marc Breedlove reported that there are two kits, so we can accommodate 20 visits during a week.
* Make forum sessions directed like first year orientation. IDP, teaching requirements, all basic first year would need to be successful.
* Sarah, Nicole, and Andrew are working on sessions attended and participations.
* Jim Galligan preferred to associate Neuroscience research forum with minimum participation and attendance. But can restructure for each stage.
* Discussion is 1425 BPS would be available at an earlier time for Research forum. Any room that is used must have video conferencing capabilities to connect with Grand Rapids.
* Andrew will report at the next meeting with a breakdown for FAC to review, then to the curriculum committee.

**Update on Graduate Student Recruiting**

* There were 11 applicants that were brought in for interviews. From Wednesday to Saturday. The students visited on campus and in Grand Rapids.
* The faculty/student feedback will be collected via Google Forms
* There was discussion how many students could be supported by the labs.
* There were 3 CNS award winners from the NSP program, however the funding is for a year. Labs would need to support the next 4 years.
* There are two additional applicants to visit on February 11th.

**Thammasat University MoU**

* Backstory – a former Ph.D. student came to the PharmTox program on a Royal Thai scholarship. This student is trying to increase research in Thailand. The MoU states the preliminary talks.
* The agreement indicates a faculty student exchange to work in the labs. The cost to MSU is for faculty postdoc student in lab to do research.
* Should we do this? Laura asked what type of research would be conducted. Jim Galligan indicated he was going to explore these questions when he went to Thailand.
* Marc Breedlove indicated he did not see a downside to this.
* Cindy Jordan expressed some concerns over the fluency of language and if the postdoc did not have any background in Neuroscience. What content area in Neuroscience? The pressure to accept someone. What was Thammasat’s expectation
* This exchange was a short term to learn how science is conducted in the US

**Neuroscience Program Bylaws: RP&T**

* Last semester there was discussion with regards to the RPT process. There has been no codified process. We need to have a better process.
* Cindy Jordan has agreed to spearhead an adhoc committee

**New Business**

New faculty hires for 2016. The program has the opportunity to request a new faculty member. The position will be an Assistant Professor level. Please think about suggestions looking ahead for the future.

**Old Business**

Jim Galligan’s five year review is in process. The committee will be sending out materials in February for input.

Cheryl reported that the first of training modules webinar occurred and there was a 12 person focus group. The next session is February 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm