**Neuroscience Faculty Advisory Committee**

**Giltner Hall, Room 101**

**October 18, 2019**

**Attendance**: Gina Leinninger, Michelle Mazei-Robison, Marc Breedlove, Jim Galligan, Wilmarie Morales-Soto (student rep), and Greg Swain

**Old Business**

1. Action Item: Approve minutes from FAC meeting minutes from September 20, 2019

* Motion to Approve: Gina Leinninger
* Second: Greg Swain
* Motion passes

**New Business**

1. Discussion Item: Faculty Survey for Continued Membership (Galligan)

* Jim Galligan had sent out a survey to faculty members of the program that have not been participating. Jim had received a handful of responses from the survey for continued membership.
* There was continued discussion on recruiting graduate students this year, and emphasize on whether the listed faculty will participate or not.

1. Discussion Item: Discussion of T32 Review and Training Grant Faculty Roster (Galligan)

* Jim shared that we are in the process of identifying weaknesses of the last T32 application and understanding what we can do differently and how we can improve. From discussions Jim has had with a jointly sponsored T32 program, one of the bigger concerns is the diversity among program faculty. Jim added the program plans to have a strong recruiting effort for minorities. Another concern with reviewers was the split-campus and the integration of faculty and students.
* Gina Leinninger stated that the changes seem to have been pretty successful, as there weren’t many major criticisms in this review. She added that one thing that had come up several times was that the program only requires two lab rotations instead of three. Gina added that this may be something to ask the students about; it’s an addressable concern.
* Michelle asked if students sometimes end up doing three rotations instead of just two?
* Jim said they do a summer rotation, and a Fall rotation. Jim stated he’d like to get them settled in their labs and started on their projects as soon as possible.
* Greg Swain said he they might need a little more description on what a lab rotation consists of, and that our students are satisfied with this structure.
* Gina said that a good thing about these longer rotation is that they sometimes end up being more meaningful, and students have opportunity to get publications out of these.
* Michelle asked if this was a completely new application, or is this a renewal?
* Jim answered this application would be submitted as a renewal, it’s a new application in the sense that the profile of the program is different.
* Michelle shared a concern that many criticisms aren’t under the control of a renewal. For example, training records and placement of students. How do we address those types of criticisms? How do these allocations work?
* Jim answered all we can really do is to include all the information we have. Not all students want to go into tenure stream universities. Jim added it would be nice if we had a solid percentage of our students on this path, but some students will want to go into industry or teach at liberal arts colleges.
* Michelle responded the scores on these portions of the review weren’t very high. How do we showcase that our students doing well?
* There was continued discussion that our focus could be promoting other careers and interest in different career options. Greg stated the we could emphasize providing exposure to alternative careers.
* Curriculum changes include two elective courses. Jim stated we’ll have to find faculty to teach these courses.
* Deadline for application will be the end of May 2020. Jim added there is still time for changes.

1. Discussion Item: Graduate Student Recruiting 2020 (Swain)

* Greg reported that he has about 30 schools and programs who he’s reached out to. Many of these schools are from Michigan. Hopefully we’ll get applications from these schools and more regionally.
* Greg added there is a Doctorate Recruiting and Retention Program (DRRP). Greg plans to apply to this, which would help with financials and develop recruiting efforts especially with African American students.
* North Carolina Central has been working with us on a 3-plus-2 Masters/B.S. program, but due to change in administration this has been a slow-going process.
* Michelle asked if this was something that could be expanded to other schools, potentially? Michelle added she has a good friend at Tennessee State University (TSU), and they have had a training grant for undergraduate students to visit other schools for a summer rotation. If there is a template for this process, it could potentially be expanded.
* Greg stated the hurdle with other school is who gets the tuition money at the university level. Greg added that the schools currently working with us already has a process in place.
* Greg said the Graduate School is eager for these types of programs. Reaching out to locals has been successful in the past. Greg added that he is hoping to get 5 or 6 students.
* Jim added that speaking of the Graduate School, our applications through GAMS still make it appear that we require GRE scores, and that students are confused about the TOEFL scores.
* Greg responded that he isn’t sure this can be changed; there might be one template offered by the Graduate School.
* Marc Breedlove added that we could make it more clear of our requirements through the website and specify that just because the GRE is asked for doesn’t mean that our program needs this.
* Discussion continued about international students and the required TOEFL score. Jim added that it would be great to have more international students in the program.

1. New Business:

The next FAC meeting is Friday, November 15 at 10:30am.

The next NSP Faculty Meeting is Thursday, December 5 at 12pm.

1. No Old Business

Meeting Adjourned: 11:15pm