Neuroscience Program

Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

October 20, 2017

Giltner Hall 101

1. **Program Governance**

Over the past year, FAC has worked tirelessly in revising the Neuroscience Program bylaws. As a result, the structure has changed a bit. In the bylaws, there is clear distinction of NEU and NSP faculty. NEU faculty defined as faculty members who are part of the Neuroscience program, but do not have a faculty appointment within the Neuroscience program. While NSP faculty are defined as faculty members who have percentage of their faculty appointment in Neuroscience.

The program created a position for a Graduate Program Director. Jim Galligan solicited for self-nominations. There was one nomination for Graduate Program Director. Greg Swain was selected Graduate Program Director. Laura Symonds will stay on in her role as Undergraduate Program Director.

The composition of FAC will be five elected NSP faculty members. The NSP faculty members will self-nominate for a positon on FAC. Elections will be held prior to the start of Fall Semester. Voting will be anonymously by NSP faculty. FAC members will need to elect a chair.

Jim Galligan asked for self-nominations. Kyle Miller nominated Cheryl Sisk. Cheryl Sisk agreed to chair FAC. The appointment of Chair is for one academic year, starting August 16 through August 15 the following year.

The Graduate Affairs Committee is comprised of Brian Gulbransen, Florian Kagerer, Jason Moser, Keith Lookingland, Scott County, Megan Duffy (student rep), Cheryl Sisk (ex-officio) and Greg Swain. Jim Galligan will appoint a chair for GAC.

1. **Difficulties with broadcasting lectures to GR**

Marie Doyle addressed a continuing issue with broadcasting classes to Grand Rapids. Rebecca Dangremond is experiencing difficulties with PHM 827, Physiology and Pharmacology of Excitable Cells, and is losing 10-15 minutes of every class with connection issues. PHM has an IT tech come in before the start of every class to try to troubleshoot the issue.

Marie asked what the long term solution. We will continue having students rotate in Grand Rapids with classes being taught in East Lansing. Julie Delgado indicated that we are using zoom to transmit NEU 807 to Grand Rapids, after there were some issues connecting using the polycom system. To her knowledge, it seemed to solve some of the connection issues. She added preset numbers to the directory to streamline the dialing out process. Marie is going to check with Rebecca to see if using zoom would be a better solution.

1. **Program updates**

Jim Galligan reported the program will have a 2% budget cut for 2017-2018 and another 1.5% cut for 2018-2019. Some departments/programs are struggling with the cut, Neuroscience will be okay for the 2017-2018 budget year. He is working on strategies for these cuts without affecting the programs. One suggested cut would be cutting an outside seminar speaker or reducing the outreach budgets, and examine the program usage of LA/TA for classes.

Jim Galligan indicated the two online graduate certificate program have started accepting students. There are 7 students enrolled in the Medical Neuroscience program and applications are being reviewed for Spring Semester 2018 enrollment.

Neuroscience and the Law will accept its first cohort of students Fall Semester 2018.

Alexa Veenema inquired to why the program is facing a cut. Cheryl Sisk said, that each college handles budget cuts differently, some absorb the cuts at the College level, and other pass some cuts down to the program/departments.

Cheryl shared that programs will be responsible for fringe benefits for staff and faculty, who are grant accounts. Central Administration has been covering those costs, but will be passing those onto programs.

1. **Graduate recruiting January 17-20, 2018**

Jim Galligan indicated on campus recruitment will be January 17-20, 2018. He indicated we have not been as successful during our past two recruitment cycles. Kyle Miller inquired in terms of number of students or overall. Jim Galligan said, number of students. We have made offers to at least 10 students each year with a low number attending.

Cheryl Sisk was wondering if it is time to have a conversation about participating in the BMS program. She said the BMS program has worked well for departments. Michelle Mazei-Robison said every program has a representative in the application review meeting. The representative would need to strongly advocate for students to be invited to recruitment.

Neuroscience program declined participation to the BMS program given the constraints by the training grant. A question was raised how other institutions handle an umbrella program with a T-32 grant.

Caryl Sortwell provided some insight regarding TSMM participation in the BMS program. There are some constraints that take students out of the lab and there is lack of flexibility like the Neuroscience program.

Jim Galligan said if Neuroscience were to participate in the BMS program, the students with a weak science background, more psychology focused may not be invited. Michelle Mazei-Robison echoed her earlier sentiment that you need to have a strong advocate for the students in the admissions meeting.

Alexa Veenema questioned why not all faculty review the applications if they are the ones accepting the students. A spirited discussion ensued regarding faculty participation during recruitment.

Julie Delgado mentioned one way to get develop relationships between faculty and potential students is to open the interview process up to a larger group of students to do skype/zoom meetings, where you can weed out students who are not really interested in attending MSU but just applying to ten different schools. We need to focus more on fit and funding opposed to bringing students to campus who will not be a good fit and without funding.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am