**Neuroscience Program**

**Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

**September 18, 2020**

1. Approve minutes from April 2020 meeting Galligan
2. Welcome new FAC members Galligan
3. T32 application Galligan
4. Graduate Program Swain
5. Online Certificate Programs Henley and Koval
6. New Business
7. Old Business

**Neuroscience Faculty Advisory Committee**

**September 18, 2020**

**Attendance**: Marc Breedlove, Jim Galligan, Hanne Hoffmann, Joseph Lonstein, Gina Leinninger, Galit Pelled, Ahlam Soliman (student rep), Greg Swain, and Scott Counts

**Old Business**

1. Action Item: Approve minutes from FAC meeting minutes from April 27, 2020

* Motion to Approve: Greg Swain
* Second: Casey Henley
* Motion passes

**New Business**

1. Discussion Item: Welcome New FAC Members - Jim Galligan
   1. Welcome New FAC Members, Joe Lonstein and Hanne Hoffmann. Welcome Ahlam as new student rep.
2. Discussion Item: Update on T32 Application - Jim Galligan
   1. Greg and Jim collaborated on project. Application was submitted in June 2020. CNS Research office assisted in preparing T32 application. The application requested 5 positions in year 1, in years 2-5 there would be 10 positions to support students for the first 2 years in the program. It is likely there will be a reduction in the number of positions approved compared to how many positions were requested.
   2. Jim has negotiated with the VP office and Doug Gauge to match the number of positions approved by the training grant with money from the VPs office to support additional students not covered by the training grant. Student enrollment and number of faculty in the program have grown over the past year. There is greater opportunity to find labs to support about 8-9 students each year.
   3. Greg: Agreement in hope to sustain the number of students admitted to the program
   4. Jim: Application review likely to take place next month. Hoping for an update about the application status before Christmas. If the funding is approved, the program will likely not receive the money until May/June of 2021.
   5. Joe Lonstein asked when was the last T32 submission?
      1. Jim answered 2 years ago. The program had a poor recruiting year 3 years ago and the program waited for improved recruitment and program profile before submitting another T32 application.
      2. Jim: We need to be hopeful for approval but also prepared to potentially re-submit the application
   6. Jim: Thank you to everyone else in assisting in preparing the application
3. Discussion Item: Graduate Program – Jim Galligan
   1. 9 New students this year. Jim asked how many of the 9 students started in the summer?
   2. Greg: 6 out of 9 students started on campus in the summer. The other 3 are in rotations now.
   3. Jim: The program had a good recruiting year. All of the current students are in rotation now. Where in the labs are the new students in rotations?
   4. Hanne: Had Brooke in her lab in the summer. Brooke started in her lab as an undergraduate in June 2018 and worked as a graduate in her lab in the summer of 2020. Kaitlyn is now rotating with Hanne.
      1. Kaitlyn was promising during her interviews and is still in the process of transitioning to MSU and the current online learning environment. Student has openly said she is struggling at the moment and may require extra support from faculty and staff in the program while getting acclimated. Student also has Dyslexia and may require additional support. Kaitlyn is doing well in the lab.
      2. Jim: Let the program know how they can help support the student
   5. Jim: Had first Graduate Program seminar of the semester
      1. Opportunity for students to introduce themselves. Everyone had the chance to get to know one another and share their backgrounds. Students seemed shy
   6. Greg: Keep an eye out for students that are struggling in the program. Sometimes the students do not come forward to get assistance when needed. Staff and faculty should help to direct students to campus services and support the students for their various needs to help them succeed in and out of the classroom.
      1. There are campus programs to support for mental health (CAPS) and there are many campus resources for assistance. Share information about resources with students regularly. You can send electronic lists of campus resources to help assist students
   7. Greg: All the students are in rotations now and are so far doing well.
4. Ahlam updated the committee on a concern from the graduate students regarding Comprehensive Exams.
   1. She stated that the instructions had been changed for one/two questions during the exams that caused stress and confusion among the students.
   2. There was an exam question regarding COVID-19, while it was a novel and debatable topic with scarce peer reviewed articles.
   3. The students were concerned about the need-to-know bias in turning in their exam answers to Dr. Swain while he also serves on the grading committee.
   4. The students felt the format of comprehensive exams did not follow what was described in the student handbook, which caused confusion.
   5. The overall concern that six days is not enough time to read the literature, digest it, and generate a testable hypothesis with its experiments. By the last question of the exams, the students were exhausted.
      1. Scott added that the students do need more guidance on the exams and pre-prints.
      2. Gina stated that it would be an interesting conversation to have with the students, and that this could be an open forum conversation and an educational opportunity.
      3. Jim thanked Ahlam for this information. Greg stated that he will bring these concerns to the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC), so they can discuss in more detail on how to resolve these concerns.
5. Discussion Item: Neuro Law Program – Michael Koval and Casey Henley
   1. Michael stated that Casey was previously overseeing the program. Michael is still getting acclimated to running the program. Neuroscience and Law is an online graduate certificate program, similar to the Med Neuro program.
   2. Original plans for Neuroscience Law were drawn up a few years ago by Jim and Casey with the aim to teach Neuroscience to non-science students, ex. lawyers, law students, social workers, law enforcement, etc. Teaching neuroscience would need to be taught with a new approach
   3. MSU financial model for online programs has recently changed, making the Neuroscience Law program feasible.
   4. Changes have taken place in the MSU Law School and the law school will no longer be working with the neuroscience program, so the Neuro Law program has to be modified with an updated curriculum.
      1. In search of adjunct lawyers interested in working with the program to cover the law side of the program, while the neuroscience partners will cover the neuroscience
   5. Jim: What is the plan going forward with the Neuro Law program? What will the curriculum look like?
      1. Michael: There were originally 7 courses. One course was to be taught by the law school. Now we may have to drop the one law focused class and distribute the law related material across the remaining 6 courses in the program.
      2. Idea for a Topics/Case Study course to examine case studies and how neuroscience and law can be used together to examine case studies. The program is looking for neuroscience faculty to run the courses and use guest speakers with examples of case studies and their experiences in law, social work, law enforcement, etc. Hoping to recruit guest speakers to incorporate law related experiences into the program.
      3. There is a total of 12 credits, 6 courses. Discussions still taking place about where to put the courses in spring, fall and summer.
   6. Jim: Have you made any contacts with the law school for guidance about how to incorporate the law portion?
      1. Casey: The law school has been hesitant to speak with the Neuroscience program over the last year due to their program integrating. Casey has a connection with the interim dean in the Law School, but the law school is not yet able to work out the details due to the changes in their own program. Casey has contacts with the law school and is still in search of additional connections to help with this program going forward. If you know any science related law faculty or speakers, let Casey know
      2. Galit: Taught Neuro Ethics and has connections with the law school. Will be in touch regarding the Neuro Law program. Has partnered with faculty in the law school and Is going to work with a lawyer as an expert witness in trials.
      3. Jim: Thank you Casey and Michael. The Neuro Law/Medical Neuroscience programs are helpful to the Neuroscience program because they generate revenue and support students and staff.
6. No New Business
7. No Old Business

Meeting Adjourned: 10:52am