

NSP Meeting Minutes
1425 BPS, East Lansing
May 3, 2018
12:30-1:30 PM

1. **Welcome:** Jim Galligan

- New Members:
 - **Andrew Bender** – Assistant Professor, Epidemiology/Biostatistics; neurology/Ophthalmology, Cognitive neuroscience of aging and lifespan development
 - **Marsha Gordon** – Professor, Translational Science & Molecular Medicine; innate immunity in neurodegenerative diseases
 - **David Morgan** – Professor, Translational Science & Molecular Medicine; neuroinflammation in Alzheimer’s disease
 - **Hanne Hoffman** – Assistant Professor, Animal Science; behavioral neuroendocrinology and reproduction
 - **Ralf Schmalzle** – Assistant Professor, Communication Arts and Sciences; neuroimaging of dynamic media messages; social cognitive and affective neuroscience Message processing and audience response to messages
 - **Dar Meshi** – Assistant Professor, Advertising and Public Relations; neural processing of social information, social media use, decision making, social influence

2. **Graduate Program Report:** Jim Galligan

- Welcome Incoming Graduates:
 - **Luis Martinetti** – University of Texas/EI Paso, AAGA/Early Start Fellowship
 - **Hannah Rudolph** – Agnes Scott College
 - **Zac Fernandez** – Wayne State University/University Enrichment/Early Start Fellowship (rotation: David Zhu)
 - **Christine Kwiatkowski** – Joint PhD with Criminal Justice (AJ Robison, Adam Moeser)
 - **Ahlan Soliman** – University of South Florida (David Morgan and Marcia Gordon)
 - **Mohammed Alhadidy** – University of South Florida (David Morgan and Marcia Gordon)
- Teaching Assistantships for Graduate Students
 - NSP graduate students that entered the program in 2017 and after are required to do one teaching assistantship (TA)
 - Teaching assistantships are available and offered to NSP graduate students when interest/need is present; please be vigilant for students interested in these assistantship so they may have these opportunities
 - In the spring term, the Graduate Secretary (Julie Delgado) will send a call for TA applicators to all NSP PhD students and mentors; assistantships will be set up for the following summer, fall and spring terms (be checking for e-mails)
- Graduate Program Updates: Curriculum Change (Fall 2019)

- First Year
 - o Fall: **NEU 801** (Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Neuroscience I – 3 cr), **NEU 802** (Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience I – 3 cr), **NEU 807** (Strategies in Neuroscience – 2 cr)
 - o Spring: **NEU 803** (Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Neuroscience II – 3 cr), **NEU 804** (Systems and Behavioral Neuroscience II – 3 cr)
 - o Summer: PHM 841 (Biostatistics – 3 cr)
- Second Year
 - o Fall: **NEU 415** (Neuroinformatics – 3 cr), **Required elective** (2-3 cr; can be taken later)
 - o Spring: **Required elective** (2-3 cr; can be taken later)
- New foundational courses, NEU 801/803 and NEU 802/804 in Year 1; will be taught by a team
- Courses will incorporate discussion of primary literature and neurobiology of disease; new quantitative skills requirement
- Two required electives, 17 credits in first year; 3-9 credits in second year
- **Challenges:** course coordinators needed (two course coordinators for each course)
 - o Charles Lee Cox asked: Will topics already be decided upon?
 - o Jim Galligan answered: The program director will provide guidance, and the course coordinators will develop the courses/content
- Research forum will be replaced by NEU 807

3. Undergraduate Report: Laura Symonds

- Neuroscience major is growing steadily; estimated to be in the high 800s by October, 2018
- Course offerings are somewhat limited due to growth of program
 - Not enough courses for cognitive/computational concentration
 - The program needs to offer more 400-level courses
 - o If anyone would be interested in teaching a seminar-style course on a topic, please talk to Laura Symonds
- Alignment of content and learning objectives are being assessed and reassessed
 - Professors of core courses (NEU 301, 302, and 311L) have been meeting to discuss what students need to know, and how it fits together in the overall curriculum
- Advising – 800 students is far too many to advise
 - We are in need of another advisor; one is just not enough with the growth of the program
 - The advisor is a corner-stone to the program and holds many responsibilities:
 - o Academic advice for under-achieving students
 - o Scholarship advising for high-achieving students
 - o Exploring and setting up internships/career placements
 - Jim Galligan is in the works of the recruitment process; just one other person would be enough to support our current advisor (Kanchan Pavangadkar)

- Broad Curriculum within NSP: offering three core courses, nine 400-level courses, one 200-level course and one 300-level course
 - Brian Gulbransen said that students seem to be coming into Neuroscience courses under-prepared
 - Laura Symonds said that PSY 209 helps prepare students; Gina Leininger added that basic CEM and IBIO would be helpful in preparing students as well
 - Marc Breedlove said the courses suggested are not prerequisites for NEU 301
 - Charles Lee Cox asked: Has the proportion of Lyman Briggs students in the program increased or decreased over the past few years?
 - Laura Symonds answered: The Lyman Briggs students have made up consecutively one third of Neuroscience majors
- For student advising, Kanchan has started a mentoring program for juniors and seniors to mentor underclassmen
- The Neuroscience Club is very active with our students
- Summer internships; pipeline to NIH summer internships
- Future initiatives include NEU study abroad, and gaining closer ties with our alumni

4. **Online Programs:** Casey Henley

- Medical Neuroscience Graduate Certificate Program has 46 completed applications for Fall 2018; very exciting for the program!
 - 12 credit program, available online only
- Neuroscience and The Law is currently at a stand-still
 - Students from other universities are able to enroll in the program, however Michigan State law students cannot enroll due to our own university regulations
 - The program will be co-taught with law professors as well as Neuroscience faculty; would like to discuss case studies in this program
 - This project will be postponed until Fall of 2018

5. No New Business

6. No Old Business

- News: Hannah Batchelor, a NEU undergraduate alum was accepted into the MD/PhD program at Yale University. NSP member Gina Leininger was Hannah's research mentor while she was a student at MSU. Congrats to Hannah and Gina.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:15pm