

Neuroscience Faculty Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
September 14, 2018
Giltner 101

Attendance: Gina Leininger, Michelle Mazei-Robison, Marc Breedlove, Jim Galligan, Krishna Yelleswarapu (student rep), Galit Pelled, Alexa Veenema and Caryl Sortwell

Old Business

1. Michelle Mazei-Robison asked for approve of the April 2018 FAC minutes. Marc Breedlove requested that names of attendance be added to the April 2018 FAC minutes. Julie Delgado will resend the minutes out with the names of attendance. Gina Leininger moved for approval, the motion was seconded by Marc Breedlove.

New Business

2. Per the bylaws, section 7.2.1.3: *The elected faculty representatives of the FAC shall choose one representative to serve as Chair of the FAC for 1 year. The standing Chair can serve a second term if selected by the committee members.*

Michelle indicated Caryl Sortwell has been nominated to serve as FAC chair for the 2018-2019 academic year. Caryl has accepted the nomination to serve as FAC chair. Michelle called for a vote regarding Caryl's nomination. Everyone approved the nomination with no opposition to Caryl serving as chair of FAC. Caryl's only request is that technology be worked out to prevent any additional issues with technology. Caryl asked if Michelle would run today's meeting since she worked on the agenda and knew the agenda items. All future agenda items or communication regarding FAC would come from Caryl Sortwell.

3. Caryl Sortwell asked for an update on NSP Retreat, since many of the TSMC faculty were unable to make the event. She suggested changing the date since it is the last week before schools begin in the Grand Rapids area and faculty are enjoying the last days of summer.

A discussion ensued with several suggestions on how to remedy the attendance for all students and faculty to attend. In the end, Julie will send out a poll to all Neuroscience faculty, on neuroscience@list.msu.edu, to inquire about potential dates for future neuroscience retreats. The dates would include the 2nd Friday of August, the last Friday in August before the start of Fall Semester, the week after finals in Spring Semester, a date in October, and a date in July.

Krishna Yelleswarapu requested input from students regarding their perspective of about the retreat. Students reported overall enjoyed the retreat; however, noticed the segregation between students and faculty as it pertains to lunch and seating during presentations. The students would have liked more interaction with faculty during these times.

Michelle mentioned yes, she noticed this however it was not at every table.

In addition, students felt the topics of discussion at retreat were not geared towards graduate students, but to junior faculty. Galit Pelled inquired who put the agenda together for retreat? Julie Delgado mentioned Jim Galligan and Greg Swain worked on the agenda. Alexa Veenema indicated Greg has solicited suggestions for topics for retreat.

Michelle circled back to Caryl's initial request of an update on retreat where the primary focus of retreat was the curriculum changes for the Neuroscience graduate program and potential move of the undergraduate program from the Neuroscience program to the Department of Physiology.

4. Michelle asked Jim for an update regarding the changes mentioned at retreat. Jim indicated the pertinent course and program changes have been submitted through the Registrar's office forms. The new courses and program changes are slated to be heard by the College Curriculum committee on their October agenda. It is anticipated that there will be some recommended changes before moving on in the process.

Each new course, NEU 801, NEU 802, NEU 803, and NEU 805, listed as NEU 804 in documentation sent out prior to the FAC meeting, will each require a course coordinator. Jim has recruited course coordinators for these courses and will be meeting with them on Monday, September 17th. However, he will be seeking additional course coordinators for the courses due to the broad subject matter in each course.

He has drafted a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) for each course coordinator to count towards their teaching loads, in their home departments. Jim met with the chair of Psychology to discuss this matter. He reported that the chair of Psychology is on board for one of the NEU courses to count towards their teaching load.

Galit inquired any other units have been contacted regarding this matter, specifically Engineering. While no other unit has been approached regarding the MOU, it would be at the decision of your home department.

Michelle inquired if there was additional needed for the new courses, like syllabi. Jim replied the course information is in a broad context. The specific detailed would be filled in by the course coordinators.

Krishna asked about the neuroanatomy aspect in the Systems course. He described his own experience in examining a brain with Dr. Johnson. Several students have expressed interest in the neuroanatomy of the brain. Jim mentioned sheep brains as a possible alternative to human brains. They are like a human brain and can be taken home.

Marc mentioned human brains can not leave the specific building where they are housed, however it is possible to go examine them, if available. Jim will inquire with the appropriate person to see if this is a feasible option.

Galit inquired why there isn't a neuroanatomy class offered? Michelle indicated it was a global issue; given there was no longer a neuroanatomist at the University.

As many of you heard at the retreat in August, the undergraduate program will be moving from the Neuroscience program to the Department of Physiology, effective Fall Semester 2019. Jim did not have any further updates regarding the move since was not involved in the discussions

While there has been plenty of chatter regarding the move whether it was going to happen or not, Jim indicated he was in a meeting with Dave DeWitt, Cheryl Sisk, Dean Duxbury, and Lee Cox, where it was indicated it was going to happen. As to the logistics and other matters regarding it, Jim has not been involved.

Galit inquired how this is move will impact the undergraduate program? While the impact is not fully known at this time, it was mentioned that a large part of the undergraduate program was taught by Physiology faculty except for a few courses.

5. Marc asked for further clarification regarding announcements and assignments for teaching assistantships. His recollection of previous TA selection was the announcement was sent to faculty who had neuroscience students. Julie Delgado mentioned that used to be the process. From previous suggestions Marc made, this past year's process was different. The announcement for assistantships were sent to all faculty on the neuroscience@list.msu.edu list serve. A list of students how applied were sent to the faculty supervisors for selection.

Julie mentioned there has been inquiries from NSP faculty if their students can apply for these assistantships. While no outside student applied this year, we have had outside students receive assistantships for NEU courses when they apply.

To be more transparent, it is recommended teaching assistantship assignments be emailed to all faculty notifying them of the decision.

6. Additional agenda items

Jim expressed his concern over Neuroscience seminar attendance. He mentioned there has been a poor turnout and it was noticed by the speaker, who presented yesterday. How do we remedy the situation?

There was a lengthy discussion that ensued with recommendations of tracking attendance to not providing travel funding to students who do not attend. Ultimately, students notice faculty not attending therefore do not feel the need to attend either. There needs to be further examination of the Neuroscience Program in regards to active faculty vs. faculty who apply but never participate.

Krishna did suggest changing the date and time since it does conflict with Physiology. Julie mentioned this was brought to NSP leaderships attention during the Spring Semester student meeting. Where they opted to not change it at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am