

**January 25, 2018**

**Graduate Studies Committee Meeting**

**Present:** Kerry McPhail Theresa Filtz Ellie Esfandiari  
Chrissa Kioussi Arup Indra Aleksandra Sikora  
Oleh Taratula Jessina McGregor

**Graduate Program Director and Coordinator Luncheons:** The quarterly luncheons are very useful. The Graduate School presents new things every time and keep us current with what they offer graduate students. In the January luncheon, they announced they are redoing questions for the exit survey and asked if there is something we want to know about current and graduating students. There are things we haven't known about our students. For instance, in one on one meetings, we recently discovered we have been dealing with students that have critical financial difficulties. The following are questions we would like to see on a survey of current graduate students:

- When did you start looking for a job and where do you want to work?
- What are your career goals?
- What professional development activities are you involved in?
- Are your financial needs being met/

**Graduate Program Applications:** The College application process closed January 1. We have 56 applications and have already accepted one for Pharmaceuticals. Kerry asked who is capable of taking on a GRA and who is in line for a department funded GTA. Adam wants a student, and Oleh will have space for a student. Aleksandra has a specific student in mind. Taifo would like to accept an underrepresented minority student to take Andrew's place. Pharmacology is interviewing a few students; one Saudi specifically. Pharmacology accepted Hannah Wesselman for fall 2017. We allowed her to defer to Fall 2018, but she has not confirmed her intention to join us. We are making funding decisions right now and can't hold a funded position for her indefinitely. She will be given a deadline.

Is there an opportunity to start thinking about a more refined process? Now that we're taking only students we know we can fund, has the time come to think about something more streamlined?

**Advising agreement/compact:** Kerry asked for comments. The evaluation form is a Qualtrics online survey. Faculty have indicated which questions we would like to have them answer. A response is requested on some but not all.

## Thoughts:

- Video tutorials are on the Graduate School website. We can send students to those tutorials for help.
- On website there are tools for faculty and tools for graduate students
- There is a different process for rotation students and GRA students.
- We can make a survey with early questions for rotation students and can modify the surveys for specific students.
- Start students thinking about rotations early on. They can change their minds if they wish.
- When Kerry meets with every new student, its usually before orientation, and they don't know who they want to rotate with. The anticipated major advisor might be the best person for the student to talk with regarding lab rotations. Rotations can determine interest and the direction of their program and ultimately their thesis project.
- It is an enriching experience for students to have exposure to different labs.
- Difficulties can arise because there is only so much funding. If a student veers away from the original faculty member, that means the original faculty member loses the opportunity to get a student. If each faculty member can have one GTA, then someone else ends up with two and the original faculty member has none.

**October 2018 Retreat:** We could not get a signed contract for an October retreat in Bend. We would have to wait to April or May, and that's too late. We have found a location in Seaside. The price is better than the Salishan. The speaker is a Pharmaceuticals person.

**Seminars:** Can students have a meeting with the seminar speaker AFTER the seminar? Students have complained they don't have lunch with the speaker. They messed that up by not showing up to the luncheons.

## **Miscellaneous:**

AAPS raised \$750.

Kerry will roll the advising agreement/compact out in time for annual reviews. She will bring this to the department meeting.

Graduate School Dean Jennifer Brown will be at the February 6 meeting.

**March 16, 2018**

**Graduate Studies Committee Meeting**

**Present:**      **Kerry McPhail**                      **Aleksandra Sikora**                      **Ellie Esfandiari**  
                         **Chrissa Kioussi**                      **Theresa Filtz**

**Action Plan after Graduate Program Review:**

Seek 900K in support – our plan is to submit a T32, which has been done, and secure a training grant. The review team was suggesting the University step up more. Kerry said Graduate School Dean Jennifer Brown is very positive about this concept. The review team said the University should be supporting our first year students. We will continue to advocate at all levels of administration for graduate student support.

Program Review Item #3, implement a plan to contact Pharm Sci Alumni. Fred said he thinks we should be more aggressive to get dollars from alumni. He feels we should fundraise for scholarships for PhD and PharmD/PhD funding. We should do a document laying out what level of support would be most useful. We have the Ayres and Holt awards. Discussion regarding travel awards. Can illustrate Three levels of support 1 , 2 , 3. With the cost of each. The Foundation has a specific strategy for presenting requests for donations.

Administrative support for graduate program. Change measure of success to improve survey responses on the adequacy of support question. Don't put a number on it.

Tier II persons responsible – Pharmaceuticals faculty. Need to update syllabi. Kerry will lead that program with Pharmaceuticals and have them use the new format.

Improve branding – depending on alignment with strategic plan. We already had intentions to make these changes and improvements to the program.

At the moment, we have two research cores, and external reviewers advised to make one core out of both. Come up with a new name for the core to something specific. Pharmaceuticals faculty have decided to move toward nano therapeutics. Mark C is retiring, and he is the only kinetics person.

**Concurrent Master's Degree Discussion:**

Financial incentive at the University level. State is linking funding to number of degrees awarded. University is passing down to departments to incentivize. The more people you have in the program, the more money you will get. If you enroll people in M.S. programs on their way to a PhD degree, the University will give us more money (\$14K / degree). The budget model has changed. Starting next year, we don't get tuition remissions. Funding based on number of degrees we award, how many courses we teach, and how many students are enrolled in those courses. The Dean wants this to start as soon as possible. Other departments will be doing this soon, and we want to be on track with the rest of campus. Need more information from the Graduate School.

If there is an issue, at least the student will leave with a M.S. It is worrisome that we say we are not admitting people for M.S. degrees but were graduating people with M.S. degrees. Would be a non-thesis M.S. Is difficult to do a thesis M.S. in only two years. 24 months for non-thesis M.S. course

work for PhD degree. 27 didactic credits for PhD, 30 didactic credits required for non-thesis M.S. How much overlap in thesis credits/topic from M.S. to PhD?

The didactic course credits can overlap. It's the thesis topic that we need to know. How can the topics overlap? Perhaps use M.S. for training for PhD program. Each discipline should map a plan for a non-thesis M.S. for their discipline. Don't want an extension to the time of degree (if they have to change their topic).

Have to be careful in terms of recruiting. Plenty of programs that will direct admit to a Ph.D. program. When students get here, say they will get a M.S. along the way. Linking M.S. along with the prelim is important. Have now qualified for the Ph.D. and didactic courses are done. They can get in the lab and start research during the PhD.

Do we want to offer this plan to current students? Yes. Implement this Fall 2018. Ask one person in each sub-discipline to talk about the pathways - what courses are available. For current students that have done their prelim: it's not possible to do a M.S. degree as well because the termination of M.S. is at the prelim.

### **Graduate Program Travel Funds**

We have travel money unused. Sid Patel and Soheila Kazemi have applied for funding. Gaurav is going to pay half. We will give him \$500. Soheila has applied through the MCB program but she didn't get it. Would like to support her with \$1K. This is her last chance to travel and present before she graduates.

### **Student Concerns**

One graduate student has taken a LOA. Hope to get him back in fall. Withdrew this term.

Another student will be back next week after his father has passed away. The demand in CAPS is far greater than the available help. Perhaps the graduate programs need a separate program from CAPS?