PhD Steering Committee
Minutes of Tuesday, April 17, 2012


Announcements

GMS Spring Faculty Meeting
• There will be a GMS Spring Faculty Meeting on Monday, May 14th at 3pm in room L-112. The meeting will be followed by a hooding practice and refreshments in room L109ABC.

Commencement
• The GMS Master’s Degree Commencement Ceremony will be Friday, May 18th at 10am at the George Sherman Union, Metcalf Hall.
• The BUSM Commencement Ceremony will be Saturday, May 19th at 10am at Agganis Arena.

Russek Day
• The 18th Annual Henry I. Russek Student Achievement Day is scheduled for Friday, May 11th. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University. A webpage for abstract submission can be found under Ph.D. students on the GMS website. Please encourage your students to participate.

Diverse Career Panel
• The will be a Diverse Career Panel Discussion on Monday, June 4th from 4-6pm in Hiebert Lounge. The panel discussion will run from 4-5:30pm with a reception to follow.
• The panel will consist of 5 participants.
  o Sheryl M. Greenberg, Ph.D., Senior Industrial Liaison at MIT, Principal at SG Patentscape
  o Paulina Sierpinsiki Hill, Ph.D., Senior Associate at Polaris Venture Partners
  o Valerie Philippon, Ph.D., Director of Medical Affairs, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
  o Heather Sternshein, Ph.D., Content Manager at Boundless Learning
PA Program Vote

- Please encourage faculty to vote. Dr. Hyman will send another reminder out to the GMS Faculty.

Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)

- This will be the third year of the summer program. Participants will arrive on May 30th and will stay for ten weeks. All of the students are placed in labs. Linda Zimmerman may call on faculty for science talks. The group this summer is comprised of sophomores and juniors and evenly split between male and female. All but one participant has external funding from a MARC, RISE, McNair, or LSAMP program.

Embargo of Dissertations

- Mugar Library has a policy allowing students to embargo their thesis so that it is not public through Proquest for intellectual property or publication purposes. In terms of best practices, is it reasonable to allow it and for what length of time?
- The committee discussed that 1 year seemed reasonable and that if requested the GMS office should grant embargo.

Discussion

Mental Health discussion

- Many students do not know what is available to them. There is a movement to invest in Mental Health Services on the Medical Campus. We know that our students are using the services on the CRC.
- On the back of every red card that accompanies your BU ID badge lists the Behavioral Health number.

Admissions Update-GEMS

- GMS will need to submit changes to the GEMS application by May 1st.
- Some of the top recommendations from BU-wide survey include:
  - Applicants being able to learn their completion status from GEMS
  - GMS Office being able to provide decisions on GEMS
  - Applicant can indicate their decision to accept or decline on GEMS
  - Self-service deposit by credit card
  - Ability to send admission data straight to IRB
- Outcomes of applying to multiple programs/departments
  - Last year 80% of the Ph.D. applicants selected an alternate choice. This year we allowed students to apply for more than one program if they completed an additional application and the GMS office offered fee waivers. This year, only 9 people requested fee waivers. 29 paid twice, 5 paid 3 times, and 3 paid 4 times.
Post Doc Office Update

- Yolanta gave an update on the Post-Doc office.
- Career development
  - Seminars are scheduled through April 2013 including Career Diversity Panels, Resume/Cover Letter Writing, Interview Skills.
  - Other professional development opportunities include teaching opportunity workshops, time management, and faculty talks.
- Toastmasters International
  - Yolanta has initiated a chapter of Toastmasters International on the Medical Campus.
    - Currently there are 18 members, including post-docs, students, and BUMC staff. Allows for practice in public speaking and is especially popular with international students and post-docs.
  - Current Projects
    - Equal academic appointments, benefits, and salary for post-docs.
      - In communication with HR to clearly define post-doc positions with transparent expectations
    - IEP - Industry exploration Program
      - Originally instituted by MGH Post-doc association. 30 Companies participate. The program matches post-docs to industries.
      - On April 27th 80 post-docs will be visiting these companies. Their day may include meeting industry professionals, tours, or meeting with HR departments.
      - Post-docs will need a consent form from their PI and will need to attend an intellectual property workshop.

Committee Updates
No committee updates were given at this meeting.