

Minutes

SADBAC
July 18, 2022

Presiding: Dr. James Millonig

Present: Drs. Janet Alder, Smita Thakker-Varia, Huizhou Fan, Marc Gartenberg, Joseph Freeman, Lauren Aleksunes, Monica Roth, Joseph Kramer, Tracy Scott, Kim McKim, Jerome Langer, Rula Btoush, Miguel Zaratiegui, Mike Verzi, Gediminas Mainelis, John Pintar (zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM

Jim stepped down as MD/PhD director as of July 15, 2022. Nobody has been announced yet to take over.

The Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences programs are being moved over to RBHS but they are already in SGS so that makes things easier.

The SGS office is getting new floor and paint so the office will be closed for about a month. V12 is getting retro fitted for Zoom and V14 got a new balancer to help with laptop connections.

Joint Program PhD and MS Orientation will take place on August 31st for the biomedical community, the morning session will take place in SOP, room 130. Lunch will be served in the Great Hall followed by a walking tour of Busch Campus. Radiation and Lab safety training are scheduled. All students will also be invited to Game Night and annual BBQ on September 2. Dr. Alder will meet with each incoming student on an individual basis.

MBS program orientation will be held in person on August 10th. An invitation was sent to incoming students and 95% have RSVP'd yes. The MBS students will also be invited to Game night and the BBQ.

Recruitment – the MBS program paid approximately \$30,000 for marketing their program this year. The program has seen a small increase in the number of applications however they are getting better quality applicants. The programs were asked for ideas for recruitment. Lauren Aleksunes has done well recruiting by showcasing the Toxicology program's current students' accomplishments and believes personalized phone calls with each accepted students has helped. Also she uses the current students to help form connections. The MBS program has received hundreds of applications but this year's incoming class is 19. Most people believe the problem lies with getting the students to accept, a signing bonus could help attract the students to say yes since other schools have very high stipends. However, a personalized approach to make them feel wanted and supported should be tried regardless of the signing

bonus.. Each program may need to submit a recruitment plan to Jim for this coming year. Another suggestion was to create a BA/PhD program like the BA/MD program which reduces the time a student needs to be in school and saves on tuition for undergrads.

New curricula

The 12 credit Computational Biology add on certificate should be ready to start Fall 22. The Clinical and Translational Science add-on certificate needs more fine tuning and should be ready by next academic year. The certificate will be in addition to the current course requirements. There was concern raised about how these certificates would affect tuition for the PIs once the students are post qualifying exam.

Microscopy course is being created and should be offered the 2023-24 academic year. MSBS curriculum is being modified to include essential skills and a statistics course.

Diversity Initiatives – Janet has organized a new initiative STEM Grads Giving Back. Invited PhD students to participate and 35 students signed up. Current students have a chance to mentor young students from diverse backgrounds through Upward Bound including tutoring, judging science fairs, giving demonstrations and talking about their research. A pizza party was held on July 6th with a good turn out to help create community for the PhD volunteers from all STEM disciplines.

Dr. Smita Varia is organizing the RWJMS MBS early assurance program for students matriculating medical school in the year following their MBS program work. Dr. Joe Kramer and herself will identify students in the Fall semester and encourage them to apply to the program.

Several training grants have been submitted but none has been funded yet except Dr. Aleksunes recently received her NOA for renewal which will allow the program 2 more lines. IMSD T32 supports 5 students per year for 2 years. Support is 70% from grant and 30% institutional support.

Realistic time from for SGS to assist with Training grants is 6 months so please remind faculty not to ask at the last minute. SGS wants to help but cannot do it with short notice.

Fellowship application workshop for Biomedical PhD students will be held September 13th. Faculty Workshop in Mentoring Biomedical PhD students will be held September 15th.