

Minutes
SADBAC
October 22, 2019

Presiding: Dr. James Millonig

Present: Drs. Janet Alder, Smita Thakker-Varia, Huizhou Fan, Nancy Walworth, Marc Gartenberg, Debabrata Banerjee, Ken Irvine, Joseph Freeman, Lauren Aleksunes, Monica Roth

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm

Masters update – this year represents the 10th anniversary of the MBS program, the program started with 40 students and is now up to 150 students (50 flexing, 100 incoming each year) Dr. Banerjee is retiring and Dr. Joseph Kramer will assume the responsibility of co-Director for the program.

Long-distance classroom – construction is underway to consolidate the V12 rooms into one long distance classroom. There will be 3 possible layouts and will fit up to 62 chairs. SGS – Biomedical Health Science will have priority over booking, but will open to other RBHS schools and the med school. The construction is on schedule to be finished for the start of Spring 2020. Other units with the capability are housed in SEBS, NJMS, construction is also underway for a long distance classroom in New Brunswick.

Mental health, Let's Talk, yoga, embedded counselor, EmpowerRU, JED – SGS Biomedical and Health Sciences has been proactive in promoting wellness. Let's Talk has been open to students for the past 2 years. More and more students have been taking advantage. Embedded counselor may start in December – 2 ½ days a week will offer group counselling, workshops, mindfulness, stress management, educate faculty on the warning signs. Free Yoga is now being offered weekly to all students through RWJMS. Lauren Aleksunes mentioned the Tox program has been having workshops for LGBT communities. the most recent topic was language mentors. Dr. Loren Runnels has been hosting EmpowerRU workshops geared towards professional development, stress management, time management, etc.. He will continue with 2 per semester.

JED – This is a President Barchi level program– Rutgers joined JED Campus, a Nationwide initiative designed to help schools evaluate and strengthen programs and systems that foster students' emotional well-being and prevent suicide. Rutgers has a 4 year commitment. Legacy Rutgers students will receive a Healthy Minds survey in November. RBHS based students will receive their survey after the new year. There is also a self-assessment of resources available that we are completing internally.

MSCTS/CTSA TL1 – Training grant tables all need to be populated from Xtract now. Tracy Scott is the point person for this in the SGS office and everyone should be working with her to prepare tables for training grants. We also have boiler plate materials for many parts of the training grants so faculty should consider applying for training grants and ask for help from the SGS office.

CTSA grant was awarded this year, \$21M, Dr. Scotto is the PI. There will be 5 lines (PhD student and postdoc) per year, not too many applications this year. Currently 4 graduate students and 1 postdoc. Applications will be taken again in March. The coverage of tuition and stipend is for 1 year but the students/postdocs have to commit to the program for 3 years so they can flex the classes and requirements.

Training grants:

Drs. Haimovich and Langer are submitting an IMSD renewal due January 25th.

Drs. Kramer & Runnels will be submitting an MARC grant (undergrad pipeline) due May 25th

Dr. Millonig submitted MSTP in May.

Dr. Mouradian submitted a Neuroscience grant

Burroughs Wellcome grant was submitted but not awarded.

IPERT submitted scored 50 (medium)

iJOBS is continuing on a no cost extension for this year. Going forward Jerry Kukor and Kathy Scotto have committed \$100,000. The Rutgers Foundation is also reaching out donors and alumni to establish a \$2.5 million endowment. Currently they have donations from 2 donors and a potential 3rd one visit in November.

Survey for months of prior research before starting graduate school – The data of how many months of research graduate students did prior to starting graduate school are required now on training grants. A survey will be sent out to current students asking for how many hours per week and how many months of prior research was done to ensure that it is calculated correctly. 8 months of part time research only counts as 3 months of research. This survey is more accurate than asking students to self-report on application to graduate school. This survey should be done annually for new students while it is fresh in their minds.

R & R on propositional exam – It is important for Rigor and Reproducibility to be incorporated into different stages of the graduate school experience. Graduate students currently learn about R&R in Ethics and also in Statistics. We are now proposing as some other schools have done to require it on the propositional exam. This would be similar to what NIH now requires for all R grants to have. It was discussed if this would be a separate section or interspersed throughout the thesis proposal. It was decided that interspersed is fine. The committee will be responsible for checking that this has been done and annual committee meeting forms will be modified to include a check box and open comment for this requirement. We will therefore start to require that annual committee meeting forms be completed at the propositional exam in addition to the qualifying exam form. This R&R requirement was voted on and was unanimously approved. The new requirement will all be communicated to graduate students and faculty.

Website – the new SGS website will be ready by the end of October to start the content migration process. That will take several months to complete. Programs such as IMSD, iJOBS, Masters of Biomedical Sciences, Neuroscience etc... will need to be fully migrated over.

Evaluation of Mentors – It was noted that some graduate students have issues with their mentors. A survey of other graduate schools indicated that 15/25 schools send the mentors out of the room at the annual committee meeting for the students to share how the relationship is going. 6/15 do it at the IDP meeting and 4/25 want to do it at the annual meeting. It was discussed that most students would not feel comfortable telling the committee what is wrong while the PI is standing outside the room. We decided that the IDP is a better venue. Janet will remind program directors to bring this up at the IDP meeting. Program directors should encourage the students to go talk to the mentor directly or if they are not comfortable then the Program Director should help the student or bring it to the attention of the Assistant or Senior Associate Dean. There is also a student ombudsperson (Peter Lobel) that students can bring concerns to. For this informal mentor evaluation to happen at IDP meetings, we will have to start Year 4 IDP meetings with program directors in addition to the Year 2 IDP meetings. Everyone thought this was a good idea. A 4th year meeting with program directors will be added to the IDP information.