



Graduate Studies Committee

March 2, 2016
11:00am - 12:00pm
HPNP 2306

Members: Dr. Jason Frazier (PD), Dr. Sihong Song (PC), Dr. Richard Segal (POP), Dr. Margaret James (MC), Dr. Ian Tebbett (FORENSICS), Dr. Maureen Keller-Wood (ORGS), Vivian Lantow (GP), Kim Mahoney (GP), Marci Smeltz (Student Representative)

Guests:

Absent:

AGENDA TOPICS

- ❖ **Accept Minutes** – from February 8, 2016
- ❖ **GSF/Grinter funding** – update from Graduate Programs
- ❖ **Summer Research Internships** – update from Graduate Programs
- ❖ **Applications** – update from each department

MINUTES

- ❖ **Accept Minutes** – from February 8, 2016
 - The date is listed incorrectly as February 9 on the minutes. The meeting minutes have been accepted pending this change.
- ❖ **GSF/Grinter funding** – Dr. Keller-Wood has received approval from Dean Frierson in the Graduate School to split the four Graduate Student Fellowships (GSF) among the five departments, but each award must be topped up to the minimum \$25,000. The title of the GSF will not change in this circumstances. The students receiving GSFs should be assigned as Teaching Assistants. The College will have a better idea of the TA needs for Fall 2016 term in July, and will revisit the Teaching Assistant assignments at that time.

The Graduate School will also provide five Grinter Fellowships of \$4500 each to be awarded to one incoming student per department.

Dr. Keller-Wood is building the 2016-17 budget, and will send a breakdown of tuition waivers and stipends to the departments after John Evangelista approves the College's financial commitment. The allocation of tuition waivers will not be changed unless the department discusses their needs with Dr. Keller-Wood. Tuition waiver requests are due to UF on April 1, so any changes must be requested by March 15. After March 15, any additional funding will have to come from the stipends.

Dean Johnson would like to increase the minimum that Graduate Assistants are paid. Each department should try to increase until the minimum is \$20,000. Dr. Keller-Wood will explore the rules of increasing stipends to existing GAs.

- ❖ **Summer Research Internships** – The Graduate Programs office received 66 applications for the 2016 Summer Research Internships. Discussion ensued regarding a better process for identifying which PharmD applicants could be potential PhD recruits. Concern was raised that some of the PharmD applicants use the Summer Research Internship to fulfill honors credit while receiving a paycheck, rather than exploring the PhD research opportunities. It would be more beneficial to the College to target students with a specific interest in research, which could also include opening the program to students outside of UF. Next year, the College will impose more stringent criterion for applicants, such as requiring the students to commit to research for credit.
- ❖ **Applications** – The PTR department has begun the process to accept 3 PhD students and one Fullbright master's student. All of these applications are still under review by the UF Office of Admissions.

The POP department has identified 3 admits to the PhD program that will be funded by the College. The department also has 3 self-funded master's students that are potential candidates for the PhD track. In addition, one or two self-funded PhD applicants are being considered at this time. Dr. Segal raised concern about the length of time for the review process at the UF Office of Admissions. Dr. Tebbett informed the committee that the College of Pharmacy has hired their own admissions person to assist with the online programs. The Graduate Programs office will contact Sarah Barker for more information on utilizing this person to expedite the review process.

Pharmaceutics has 3 admits for the Lake Nona campus. No other admits are being considered due to space and funding issues.

Pharmacodynamics interviewed one student who visited during the Research Showcase, and has another scheduled for interview. Dr. Frazier has a list of 6-8 students to interview through Skype.

The Medicinal Chemistry department has one joint degree student that will begin her PhD studies in the Fall term, but will not be admitting any other applicants due to funding issues.

Vivian informed the committee that if a GSF student gets their own outside funding through a grant, the College can defer the GSF to a later time, and request a top-off to supplement with GSF funds rather than using department funds. Also, if a GSF student also receives the McKnight Fellowship, the College will receive an additional \$5000 from the Graduate School to supplement another student's funding.

- ❖ **Grad Student Appreciation Week** – The University and the Graduate School have announced their participation in the statewide Graduate Student Appreciation Week March 28 – April 1. The Graduate Programs Office is putting together a few events to show our support of the COP graduate students, and is open to any suggestions from the committee. Some possible ideas include designing a t-shirt for the students and hosting a student social. The Graduate Programs Office would also like to highlight one student from each department on the College's social media pages during the Appreciation Week. If the departments have a specific student in mind that they would like to showcase, the Graduate Programs Office would like their input.
- ❖ **Other Business** – the Spring tuition waivers have not yet been finalized, but the Graduate Programs Office is working with HR and the Research team to resolve any issues.
- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 11:53am