

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

FACULTY MEETING
February 20, 2025 - 2:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Shane Cunha, Chair; Aballay, Abe, Akbani, Akhbardeh, Alcantara, Alcorn, Amit, Azhdarinia, Bartholomeusz, Bednar, Carmon, Chandra, Chang, Chauhan, Chehab, Han Chen, Lisa Chen, Yang Chen, Xiaodong Cheng, Cole, Dabaghian, Daniel-MacDougall, Debeb, DeLay, Dessauer, Dunbar, S Ekmekcioglu, Evans, Fan, Farach-Carson, R. Fuentes, Fornage, Fru, Frost, Garsin, Giridharan, Gomez-Manzano, Gorfe, Gottlieb, Hawkins, Haymaker, Heidelberger, Horton, Bo Hu, Jian Hu, Ishak, M Jacobs, A. Jain, Jayaraman, K Jones, H. Kaplan, Eunhee Kim, Gab Kim, Hyun-Eui Kim, JungHwan Kim, Michael Kim, Klegerman, Konovalova, Koay, Krishnan, Kwartler, Byron Lee, Dung-Fang Lee, Yi-Ping Li, Bin Liu, Lorenz, Zhen Lu, Dershan Luo, Keran Ma, Mangahas, Margolin, Marrelli, Marshak, K. McBride, McCullough, T. McDonnell, R. Miller, Marrelli, R. Morales, Alanna Morrison, Moura, Nagayama, Narkar, Nishino, Nitsch, Olson, Pan, Peeler, Pollard-Larkin, Post, Prakash, E. Richie, J Rong, A. Reuben, Salinas, Seymour, Shadding, Shete, Shouval, Siddik, Sirisaengtaksin, Judith Smith, Soundararajan, Stafford, Stavoe, Brian Taylor, Paige Taylor, Qingchun Tong, Tsvetkov, Urayama, van Hoof, V. Vasquez, Vega, Waxham, Jennifer Walker, Bin Wang, Hongyu Wang, Jun Wang, Linghua Wang, Wenyi Wang, T Walters, Wenzel, KK Wong, Danielle Wu, Jiaqian Wu, Jie Xu, Kai Xu, Yamal, Hongyuan Yang, Liuqing Yang, C Yin, M. James You, Xiaoyi Yuan, Sheng Zhang, Di Zhao, Michael Zhu,

Staff/Administration: Agurcia-Parker, Elliott, Herzog, Lademora, Lau, Leonard, Manning, Mansour, McConnell, Murphy, Ogunseye, Orlando, Parada, Perez, Price, Rademacher, Ruiz, Snow, Valladolid, Weinberg, Williamson

Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2024 – *Shane Cunha, PhD*

Reports for Standing Committees listed on GSBS Website – *Shane Cunha, PhD*

Dean's Report

- Thank all faculty for participating during the student visitations.
- Discussion of the possibility of programs sponsoring students
- Provide administrative support for writing T32 training grant proposals

Introduction of New GSBS Staff -*Shane Cunha, PhD*

Sarah Herzog, PhD – Program Manager, Training Grants and Fellowships

Elvis Parada – Director, Student Affairs and Admissions

Report on Admissions and Admissions Review Committee – *Cherilynn Shadding, PhD*

- Admissions – PhD – 786, Med Physics – 79
- Interview Offers – 88, Interviewed – 130
- Biomedical programs: 370 domestic applicants, 417 international applicants

Overall, the applications have decreased compared to last year. Several changes were implemented to include new deadlines and different requirements.

There are more domestic applicants for visitation overall.

A triage system was implemented this year to reduce the burden on the committee.

- Genetic Counseling – 187 applicants (start interviews the week of February 24th; 10 slots opened)
- Upcoming Visitations
 - February 21st – In Person (40 students)
 - March 5th – Virtual

GSBS Visitation Process:

- Candidates are reviewed/scored Holistically by the admissions committee
- Candidates are selected and invited for interviews
- Candidates are asked to select 5-7 as interviewers
- Admissions contact all faculty requested
- Faculty are assigned slots (n=4, 30 min) based on their availability/scheduling needs
- Assigned faculty receive calendar invites and confirmation email, profiles
- Faculty conducts the interview (tips are provided)
- After the interview faculty interviewers must complete an evaluation of the interview
- Admissions reserve the right to move faculty to fill spots

Report on Tuition and Fees – *Karen Weinberg*

In 2022 – a proposal was put forth to raise tuition starting in fall 2025, but UTHealth paused any tuition and fee increases. Tuition and fees will remain the same and the GSBS website has been updated. No tuition increase for FY 26 or FY 27.

Report on Training Grant Support – *Raquel Salinas, PhD*

Discussed a new GSBS faculty page – funding resources to support students.

Visit: <https://gsbs.uth.edu/faculty/grant-resources>

This page includes the following:

- Centralized Hub for faculty (internal and external funding opportunities for students and access GSBS support for training grants)
- Key Resources Available
 - GSBS Internal Scholarships
 - External fellowship & grant opportunities
 - Training grant support & data requests
- New Training Grant Support Initiatives

Announcement – 2025 GSBS Commencement – *Shane Cunha, PhD*

Dr. Cunha announced that the 2025 GSBS Commencement scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 6:00 pm at NRG Arena. Keynote Speaker: Roderic Pettigrew, PhD, MD

New Business

No new business was discussed.