

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

**FACULTY MEETING  
September 13, 2018 – 3:00PM**

**MINUTES**

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**Present:** Michael Lorenz, Chair; Alcorn, Barton, Berdeaux, Bernatchez, Blackburn, Bover, Broaddus, Chandra, L. Chen, Daniel-MacDougall, Darkoh, De Lay, Evans, Farach-Carson, Frost, Gandhi, Garsin, Gao, Hagan, Hart, Hittelman, Horton, Jenq, D. Johnson, Karras, Koehler, Kellems, Konovalova, Krahe, Kudchadker, Levental, C. Lin, Lozano, Ma, Mattox, McBride, McCrea, Miller, Moghaddam, Morano, Moreno-Gonzalez, Naora, Olson, Parker-Thornburg, Plunkett, Ribelayga, Sahni, J. Shen, Q. Shen, Shureiqi, Singletary, Swindell, Taylor, Tayob, van Hoof, Volk, B. Wang, G. Wang, Hongyu Wang, Wenzel, L. Yang, Yates, Yin, Ying, Yu, M. Zhu, Zsigmond

**Staff:** Barnett, Carter, Fern, Gaughan, Lindheim, Moore, Orlando, Spitzenberger, Valladolid, Weinberg, Williamson

**1. September 14, 2017 Faculty Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

**2. Nomination of candidate(s) for 2018/2019 Vice President/President-Elect of the Graduate Faculty: Joya Chandra**

The Faculty voted unanimously to elect Dr. Joya Chandra as Graduate Faculty Vice President/President-Elect for 2018/2019.

**3. Vote on chairs and new members of 2018/2019 Standing Committees**

The Faculty voted unanimously to approve the slate as presented.

**4. Deans' Report**

Drs. Barton and Blackburn reported:

- Two members of the Deans' Office will be leaving GSBS – Dr. Andrew Bean, Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Dr. Marendra Wilson-Pham, Assistant Dean of Diversity & Alumni Affairs.
- Dr. Eric Swindell has been promoted to Associate Dean and will take over admissions.
- There is currently an open Associate Dean position for Diversity and Alumni Affairs.
- Dr. Sina Safayi did a great job starting the office of career development. He would provide one on one advising and IDP help to our students. He has taken a position as Assistant Dean of Humanities and Sciences at Emory University.
- GSBS is in the process of advertising the Assistant Director of Career Development. This position will report to the Associate Dean that we are recruiting.
- Upcoming Events
  - Lab Coat Ceremony will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - We will celebrate the Darlington Mentor Award winner Dr. Laurence court.
  - MD Anderson Symposium will be held from October 4-6<sup>th</sup> – anyone whose research is in cancer has been invited. This event is free to students, but not to faculty.
  - Career Expo will be held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - Registration is open now.

- The theme is: "What can you do with a PhD?"
- There will be exhibitors from both industry and academia.
- Please encourage your students to attend this event.
- Tracey Barnett, Communication Specialist will start publicizing the Expo on the UTHealth and MD Anderson websites, plus Facebook, Twitter and the Essential.
- Admissions
  - We thought there would be an affect from Hurricane Harvey, but that did not happen.
  - We received over 900 applications.
  - There will be 71 PhD students entering GSBS in the Fall.
  - There was also a significant increase in SMS applications this year.
  - The acceptance rate is roughly 50%.
  - In 2017 Underrepresented Minorities made up 23% of the entering class, but in 2018 it went down to 13%.
  - There has been a national trend is to go away from requiring the GRE. We have decided to do an experiment to drop the GRE for all applicants except for Medical Physics and Genetic Counseling.
  - Science Park confirmed that they were happy to see the waitlist return.
- Charter Program Leaders, the GSBS thanks you for stepping up during this transition. We thank you for all the work you have done and will continue to do for the Programs.

#### **5. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

#### **6. New Business:**

No new business was discussed.

*The following reports were not presented at the meeting but were available on the GSBS website prior to the meeting:*

1. **Report of the Standing Committees**
2. **Report of the Executive Committee**
3. **Report of the Graduate Student Association**

**MEETING ADJOURNED at approximately 3:40 p.m.**

Michael Lorenz Ph.D.,  
2018-19 President, GSBS Faculty