

**GSBS Standing Committee Reports  
For February 14, 2019  
Faculty Meeting**

**Academic Standards Committee (Dr. Ilya Levental, Chair)**

The Committee has met 5 times since the last faculty meeting and approved:

- 50 Advisory Committees
- 34 Requests for changes in Committees
- 12 Petitions for M.S. degree Candidacy
- 44 Petitions for Ph.D. Candidacy
- 2 Student plans for resolving academic probation
- 4 requests for a second area of concertation

Other Items:

- ASC voted that students with a second Area of Concertation (ARC) may complete their coursework after the candidacy exam.
- Approved a student's request to take a graded coursework as a Special Project: Course with a Pass/Fail grading system
- Reviewed a [draft of guidelines](#) for students and faculty on how to conduct first and second committee meeting

**Admissions Committee (Dr. Keri Schadler, Chair)**

- Total PhD applications received: 810
- Total complete PhD applications: 717
- PhD applications reviewed by Admissions Committee: 509
- Interview offers: 149 (including Skype)
  - Declined offer to interview: 3
- Total SMS applications received: 244
- Total complete SMS applications: 235
  - Genetic Counseling: 224
  - Medical Physics: 11
- Total MS in Biomedical Sciences received (to date\*): 14  
*\*The Committee will meet on April 10 to review applications to the MS program*

For comparison, 671 PhD applicants and 569 complete PhD applications were received for Fall 2018. An increase of 20% of total PhD applicants and 26% increase in complete applications were received for Fall 2019.

For comparison, 216 complete SMS applications were received in 2018. 205 Genetic Counseling applications were received, an increase of 9% for 2019. Additionally, 8 Medical Physics SMS applications were received in 2018, an increase of 38% for 2019.

### **Curriculum Committee (Dr. Don Gibbons, Chair)**

1. The Committee had three (3) meetings since the last Faculty meeting in September.
2. Reviewed and approved the following course requests

#### Approved 2 New Courses

- GS01 1273: Modern Nonparametrics (Course Directors: Drs. P. Wei, Y. Li & J. Wang)
- GS21 1171: NIH Fellowship Proposal Development (Course Director: Dr. E. Swindell)

#### Course Requests

- Change of Credit Hour
  - GS21 1743: Cancer Research Administration and Management, Lab/Practicum
- Course Title Change
  - GS11 1082: Psychosocial Issues in Genetic Counseling I (formerly Psychosocial Issues in Genetics)

3. Discussed twelve (12) GSBS courses that will undertake review.

#### Major Course Review

- 1) GS01 1143: Introduction to Bioinformatics
- 2) GS02 1093: Intro to Medical Physics I: Basic Interaction
- 3) GS04 1093: The Biology of Cancer Metastasis
- 4) GS06 1102: Emerging Concepts in Immunology
- 5) GS11 1172: Prenatal Genetic Counseling
- 6) GS13 1024: Molecular Basis of Cell Signaling
- 7) GS14 1024: Systems Neuroscience
- 8) GS14 1173: Cognitive Neuroscience
- 9) GS21 1152: Scientific Writing

#### Follow-up Course Review

- 1) GS02 1083: Biological & Biophysical Principles of Molecular Imaging
- 2) GS04 1213: Mechanisms of Cancer Therapeutics
- 3) GS07 1015: Microbial Genetics and Physiology

4. Presented, discussed, and/or approved the following items
  - Committee charge and course review procedures.
  - Committee assignment of courses for review (major and follow-up).
  - New end of course survey software.
  - Update on cross-listing Rice courses.

### **Membership Committee (Dr. John O'Brien, Chair)**

The Committee met two times since the last Faculty Meeting in September 2018.

The Committee approved the following:

- 9 applications for Regular Membership
- 5 applications for Associate Membership
- 1 request for membership to be changed from Associate to Regular Member were approved

### Program Directors Committee (Dr. Rebecca Berdeaux, Chair)

The Committee met once since the last Faculty Meeting and discussed the following topics:

- Admissions and recruitment
- 2018 Program retreats
- Suggestions for 2019 GSBS Student Research Day
- Student software needs

### Student Scholarship Committee (Dr. Margarida Albuquerque Almeida Santos, Chair)

1. Discussed the 2018 Fall Awards criteria and evaluated 118 applications for 22 different fellowship/scholarships and selected 36 awardees as shown below:

Award Name	Recipient/s	Advisor	Program
<b>Andrew Sowell-Wade Huggins Scholarships in Cancer Research</b>	Ruoji Zhou	Dung-Fang Lee, PhD	GE
	Sahil Seth	Giulio Draetta, MD, PhD	BBSB
	Abdallah Mohamed	Clifton Fuller, MD, PhD	CB
	Hieu Van	Margarida A. Santos, PhD	GE
<b>Cancer Answers/Sylvan Rodriguez Scholarship</b>	Shelley Herbrich	Marina Konopleva, PhD	CB
<b>Ellen Taylor Goldin Legacy Scholarship</b>	Carolina Garcia Garcia	Cullen Taniguchi, MD, PhD	CB
<b>Gigli Family Endowed Scholarship</b>	Zhenna Xiao	Li Ma, PhD	GE
<b>Jesse B. Heath, Jr. Family Legacy Scholarship</b>	Mei-Kuang (Kathy) Chen	Mien-Chie Hung, PhD	CB
<b>Investing in Student Futures Fellowship</b>	Yanhong Zhou	J. Jack Lee, DDS, PhD	QS
<b>Mercedes-Benz of the Woodlands Scholarship</b>	Ruoyu Wang	Wenbo Li, PhD	BCB
	Nathaniel Berg	Holger Eltzhig, MD, PhD	BCB
<b>T.C. Hsu Memorial Scholarship</b>	Estefania Labanca	Nora Navone, MD, PhD	CB
	Jena Tavormina	Raghu Kalluri, MD, PhD	CB
<b>The Antje Wuelfrath Gee and Harry Gee, Jr. Family Legacy Award</b>	Chenchu Lin	Daniel Frigo, PhD	TAP
<b>George M. Stancel, Ph.D. Fellowship in the Biomedical Sciences</b>	Junsuk Ko	Michael Blackburn, PhD	BCB
	Swetha Anandhan	Padmanee Sharma, PhD	IMM

Award Name	Recipient/s	Advisor	Program
<b>Steve Lasher and Janiece Longoria Graduate Student Award</b>	Pranavi Koppula	Boyi Gan, PhD	GE
	Megan Livingston	Pamela Wenzel, PhD	BCB
<b>R.W. Butcher Achievement Award</b>	Medina Colic	Glen Hart, PhD	QS
<b>Sam Taub and Beatrice Burton Endowed Fellowship in Vision Disease</b>	Ryan Cassidy	Qingchun Tong, PhD	NS
<b>Wei Yu Family Endowed Scholarship</b>	Shrada Wali	Scott Evans, PhD	IMM
<b>Roberta M. and Jean M. Worsham Endowed Fellowship</b>	Jonika Tannous	Jair Soares, MD	NS
<b>City Federation of Women's Clubs Endowed Scholarship in the Biomedical Sciences</b>	Celso Catumbela	Charles Darkoh, PhD	MID
<b>The Fadine Jackson Roquemore Scholarship in Cancer Research</b>	Brigid McDonald	Clifton Fuller, MD, PhD	MP
<b>Ralph B. Arlinghaus, Ph.D. Scholarship</b>	Keifer Forseth	Nitin Tandon, MBBS	NS
<b>Floyd Haar, M.D. Endowed Memorial Research Award in Memory of Freda Haar</b>	Smruthy Sivakumar	Paul Scheet, PhD	QS
<b>Charlene Kopchick Fellowship</b>	Brittany Jewell	Dung-Fang Lee, PhD	BCB
<b>John J. Kopchick Fellowships</b>	Daniela Branco	David Followill, PhD	MP
	Alexandria Cogdill	Jennifer Wargo, MD & James Allison, PhD	IMM
	Natasha Kharas	Valentin Dragoi, PhD	NS
	Roxsan Manshoury	Don Gibbons, MD, PhD	GE
	Alexis Mobley	Jaroslav Aronowski, PhD	NS+IMM
	Sydney Moyer	Gigi Lozano, PhD	GE
	Tristen Tellman	Mary Farach-Carson, PhD	BCB

**Other Awards (Nominees):**

<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Nominees</b>	<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Program</b>
<b>Tzu Chi Scholarship Award for Excellence</b>	Jeanne Manalo	Yang Xia, MD, PhD	NS
	Odemaris Narvaez del Pilar	Jichao Chen, PhD	GE
<b>Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit</b>	Danielle Little	Jichao Chen, PhD	GE
	Jie Chen	Darren Boehning, PhD	BCB

**2. Other accomplishments:**

- Conducted Fall Award meeting on November 29, 2018.
- Conducted review of Kopchick Finalists on January 10, 2019.