Biophysics Faculty/Staff Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 p.m., 3245 Chemistry

Present: Chris Meiners, Marya Ayyash, Sara Grosky, Sam Krimm, Julia Bourg, Marcos Nunez, Ziah Dean, Sam Kotler, Joshua Jasensky, Kevin Wood, Ari Gafni, Sarah Veatch

Recorded by: Ann Titus

Agenda
I. Faculty Recruiting
II. Graduate Program
    a. ADP
    b. Recruiting
III. Graduate Student Council
IV. Facility/Common Equipment Updates
V. Undergraduate
    a. REU
    b. LSA Climate & Diversity - Strategies Toward Excellent Practices (STEP) in Departments Sixth Annual Workshop, May 6-8, 2014, Ford Library
    c. M-STEM Academies
VI. Requests for Summer Ninths
VII. AST Updates

Faculty Recruiting
Chris indicated that the faculty search with Astronomy was unsuccessful this year, however, it was still interesting to go thru the process since this was the first time we've conducted a search in that area. We still need to figure out which area we want to pursue next year. As for the Complex Systems candidate, David Schwab, unfortunately, they did not feel that he was a good fit for their department, so they will not be making an offer. Next Friday, Mar. 28th, Dr. Phil Selenko will be visiting and will present a seminar at 4:00 p.m. in 1300 Chemistry. Dr. Selenko is an NMR expert in the area of In-cell NMR Spectroscopy. Chemistry does not have interest in this area so we would need to find different partner unit, however, there is some interest in the Life Sciences Institute and Biological Chemistry. MCDB might also be another possibility as well, so Chris will be meeting with the incoming Chair of MCDB, Dr. Robert Denver, to see if they are interested. This visit will determine where Dr. Selenko would potentially fit in, however, we will most likely need to have a second visit before we can think about making an offer. Chris thanked everyone for participating in all of the candidate visits this year.

Graduate Program
Chris indicated that the Biophysics Accelerated Degree Program is finally getting close to being approved. Rackham should be voting on it very soon. This program will also be an option for Biochemistry students, as well as, all LSA majors, so Chris encouraged everyone to advertise it in their classes.

Graduate Student Recruiting
Ari gave an update on Graduate Student Recruiting. Following are the stats so far:
PIBS: (9) are outstanding, (3) have accepted, (1) has declined
DIRECT: (4) are outstanding, (5) have accepted, (0) have declined
The deadline is Apr. 15th. This year we had an outstanding candidate pool, and Ari thanked everyone for all of their efforts during the recruiting weekends.

Biophysics Graduate Student Council
Representatives from the Biophysics Graduate Student Council (BGSC) were present at the meeting to give updates of their activities during this academic year.

Community
In January the BGSC held a Winter Semester Potluck to welcome our new faculty Kevin Wood & Qiong Yang. They've also been having monthly dinners at Pizza House and have been bowling. The students have really enjoyed these activities. During the summer, they will plan a Biophysics picnic/canoe trip like they did last year.

At the Biophysical Society Meeting this year in San Francisco, the BGSC organized a dinner at David Rowland's home where 10 students attended. They also organized a UM Biophysics group photo at BPS as well.

Recruitment
The BGSC has served as a recruiting tool this year during the graduate student recruiting weekends and feel that they have made a really good impression on the prospective students. They even reached out them after their visits with a follow-up letter and received very positive feedback. The BGSC officers are also willing to travel to undergraduate conferences to get the word out about Biophysics to recruit more students and minorities.

Retention, Mentorship, and Support
In an effort to assist the new incoming students transition from an undergraduate to graduate program, the BGSC would like to send them welcome packets to include information regarding housing options, maps, courses, choosing lab rotations, etc.

In regards to lab rotations, in the past, the current students have felt a lot of pressure in choosing their first rotation since they were required to do so before they arrived on campus. So the BGSC suggested that maybe we could have them choose their first rotation after they arrive. As part of new student orientation, they would like to involve the faculty by having them give short presentations about their research so that it will be easier for the students to choose a mentor. It will also be a good tool for faculty as well, who are looking for new students to join their labs. The BGSC also wants to start a mentorship program to match the incoming students with existing students and they will plan a kick-off event in beginning of the Fall Term.

In regards to candidacy, the BGSC would like to have practice sessions with the students. They would also like feedback from the second year students to get their ideas about how things went.

Facilties Common Equipment Updates
Biophysics will be receiving some new equipment as part of a retention package which will be housed in the spectroscopy room.

Vivek gave a brief update of the NMR facilities. The 800 NMR has been receiving updates over the past few months and we are currently looking into upgrading the computer since it is 15 years old. The spectrometers are functioning well. We have some new users from LSI who are using the NMR's. Chris indicated that we are looking into whether we should integrate the Pharmacy and LSI machines into the NMR Center and if we do, then we would need to hire a second support person to help manage the facility.

Chris mentioned that the Smart Center is now officially a recharge unit and fully integrated under Biophysics and Damon Hoff is the manager of the Center.

Chris indicated that renovations for Qiong's lab will be starting in April. Her space will also include a zebra fish facility. We are hopeful that the renovations will be completed by the end of August.

The ROTC is moving into the 1st floor of the 08 section of Chemistry building this summer for a few years. This shouldn't impact Biophysics at all, but they stopped by recently to introduce themselves and are more than willing to work out any issues that may arise.

Undergraduate Program
Chris indicated that we really need to attract more undergraduate majors, so he encouraged everyone to get the word out. We have quite a few students who are interested, but they just haven't declared yet. We're expecting about 10 students to graduate this year.

The class schedule is just about done for Fall 2014 term, we just need to find someone to teach BIOP 450. We're still in the process of figuring out the Winter 2015 schedule.

REU Update
Chris indicated that we've received 50 applications so far for this year's REU Program, which is down dramatically compared to previous years. So we need to figure why and need to and to increase our advertising efforts. Chris mentioned that students from the MSTEM academies might be interested. MSTEM is for underrepresented minorities who participate in a pre-freshman year residential summer program with the dual goals of preparing them for the new expectations and requirements of rigorous college science and mathematics courses and establishing the social and academic support networks essential for their success.

LSA Climate & Diversity
On May 6-8, 2014 (Ford Library), LS&A will hold its Sixth Annual Workshop on Climate & Diversity – Strategies Toward Excellent Practices (STEP) in Departments and Chris encouraged everyone to attend.

AST Update
Marya gave a brief update on AST. The first phase which involves Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable transactions will be rolling out within the next couple of months, however, it will not have any impact on Biophysics. The second and third phases will affect us, however, we currently do not have any info as to how extensive the impact will be, so Marya will keep everyone updated as she receives info regarding this.

BGSC Progress - Faculty Meeting Update
March 20th, 2014

Community:
- Jan 2014 - Winter Semester Potluck - Rackham Assembly Hall (15 students)
    > Welcome dinner for Prof. Kevin Wood, and Qiong Yang
- Monthly Dinner - Pizza House (12 Students)
- Monthly Social - Bowling (8 students)
- Upcoming outreach event - collaboration with Undergrad Biophysics Club
- BPS related events:
    - BGSC was used to organize the dinner David Rowland's home (10 students)
    - BGSC organized the UM Biophysics group photo at BPS (see below).

Recruitment:
- Used BGSC as a recruiting tool this year
    > Reached out after recruitment with follow up letter; high response rate from recruits
- BGSC officers are willing to travel to undergraduate conferences to recruit applicants

Retention, Mentorship, and Support:
- Welcome packet (Rundown on Ann Arbor hotspots, Housing options, Maps, etc)
- Incoming class mentor match-up
- Proposal to incorporate PI research talk "Blitz" session into orientation
- Candidacy practice sessions for 2nd years
    > Brainstorm/Idea Organization session
    > Practice talks



Orientation / Blitz Session Brainstorm for Incoming First Year students

Scenario A - Orientation and Blitz

Description: Incorporates Orientation, talks from 10 different faculty, and grad student round table discussion.

10:00 am to 11:00 am - Program Overview,

- ❑ Welcoming remarks by Director of the Biophysics Grad Program and Grad program chair
- ❑ Curriculum overview, required courses, etc
- ❑ Graduate Handbook Overview

11:00 am - 12:00pm PI Blitz Session (10 minute talks)

- ❑ 11:00am - 11:10am: Faculty #1
- ❑ 11:15am - 11:25am: Faculty #2
- ❑ 11:30am - 11:40am: Faculty #3
- ❑ 11:45am - 11:55am: Faculty #4

12:00pm - 12:30pm: Lunch Break

12:30pm - 2:10pm - PI Blitz Session (10 minute talks)

- ❑ 12:30pm - 12:40pm: Faculty #5
- ❑ 12:45pm - 12:55pm: Faculty #6
- ❑ 1:00pm - 1:10pm: Faculty #7
- ❑ 1:15pm - 1:25pm: Break
- ❑ 1:30pm - 1:40pm: Faculty #8
- ❑ 1:45pm - 1:55pm: Faculty #9
- ❑ 2:00pm - 2:10pm: Faculty #10

2:15pm - 3:30pm Round Table Discussion

- ❑ Participating Grad Students have an opportunity to discuss with incoming students about their own research experience (lab experience) and provide Q&A.

Scenario B - Half Day Blitz

Description: Short research talks from select faculty and grad student round table discussion.

1:00pm - 1:10pm - Introductions

- ❑ Welcoming remarks from Program direction and graduate program chair

1:10pm - 3:00pm - PI Blitz Session (10 minute talks)

- ❑ 1:10pm - 1:20pm - Faculty #1
- ❑ 1:25pm - 1:35pm - Faculty #2
- ❑ 1:40pm - 1:50pm - Faculty #3
- ❑ 2:00pm - 2-10pm - Break
- ❑ 2:10pm - 2:20pm - Faculty #4
- ❑ 2:25pm - 2:35pm - Faculty #5
- ❑ 2:40pm - 2:50pm - Faculty #6

3:15pm - 4:30pm Round Table Discussion

- ❑ Participating Grad Students have an opportunity to discuss with incoming students about their own research experience (lab experience) and provide Q&A.

Scenario C - Rotation Posting Style Short Session

Description: PIs submit rotations postings with a description of rotations projects available, and we hand them out to the students (see following page for template to send to faculty). PIs can send representatives from their labs to be present at the session to meet with the new students.

2:00pm - 2:10pm: Welcoming remarks

2:10pm - 2:20pm: Labs present introduce themselves

- ❑ If there is a lot of interest, we could cluster people from similar interests in areas. Whoever gives opening remarks could let people know where they are all "stationed"

2:20pm - 4:00pm: Round Table Discussion

- ❑ Participating Grad Students have an opportunity to discuss with incoming students about their own research experience (lab experience) and provide Q&A.

Simple sample rotation availability form

PI Name: Dr. John Doe
PI Email Contact: johndoe@umich.edu
Rotation Project description: Short paragraph of rotation project

Additional Contact Information: Insert Grad Student, Post Doc, or lab representative contact information here.