

Meeting Minutes

Institute for Systems Genomics Education Committee

January 9, 2019

1:00-2:00PM

Engineering and Science Building (ESB 304), UConn Storrs

In attendance: Mukul Bansal, Judy Brown, Justin Cotney (video), Peter Diplock, Alexander Jackson, Se-Jin Lee (phone), Barbara Mellone, Michael O'Neill, Rachel O'Neill, Laura Reinholdt (video), Joseph Tucker (phone)

1:05 Meeting called to order by Rachel O'Neill

1. Overview and Committee Mission and Responsibilities/ Procedures for Curricula and Course Committee
 - a. Introduction of members. We have representation from The Jackson Laboratory, UConn Health and UConn Storrs. Thank you for accepting the nomination to join this committee, as it aligns with ISG's goal of fluid movement between the institutions.
 - b. Review of the "Procedures and Responsibilities" draft dated January 3, 2019.

A few points of clarification:

 - This committee's proposals for new courses will go directly to the Grad School.
 - We aim to provide interdisciplinary cross-listed courses.
 - Our hope is that this committee will think about other education initiatives to bring to the ISG Executive Committee. Perhaps including graduate training programs.
 - Rachel is ex officio, and won't be voting.
2. Ask for Nominations for Chair/Elect Chair
 - a. Mike O'Neill moved and it was seconded to appoint Judy Brown as Chair of the ISG Education Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Judy Brown moved and it was seconded to create a Vice Chair position of the ISG Education Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Judy Brown moved and it was seconded to appoint Mike O'Neill as Vice Chair of the ISG Education Committee. Motion carried unanimously
3. Overview of Committee Mission and Responsibilities (Rachel O'Neill)
 - a. The Provost has charged this committee with demonstrating the viability of the PhD in Systems Genomics degree.
 - b. The expectation is that this committee will meet once a semester, at minimum. More as there are more course and program proposals to review.
 - c. This committee will explore ways in which we can do more to collaborate across the 3 institutions (The Jackson Laboratories, UConn Health and UConn).
 - d. Peter Diplock asked to be a non-voting member.

4. Update on the Genetic Counseling Program (Judy Brown)
 - a. The Genetic Counseling Program would be a self-funded a PSM program through the ISG, for 10 students.
 - b. This would be the first Genetic Counseling Program in Connecticut, and only one of a few across the country.
 - c. This Program was awarded an academic plan grant 3 years ago, to get it started.
 - Monies were used to bring in a Program Director, Maria Gyure.
 - An application for accreditation was submitted to the ACGC; but was denied because the application didn't meet their accreditation standards with respect to the experience of the program director.
 - This Program, together with the Provost, is currently pursuing the idea of establishing 1-2 certificate programs and will continue going after accreditation, with the goal of obtaining accreditation in 2020.
 - d. Next steps: (1) we welcome this committee's ideas for certificate programs; (2) accreditation.

5. New Course Proposal (ISG 57XX) Professional Skills and Competencies (Judy Brown)
 - a. Offers a professional development component for the graduate program.
 - Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Repeatable for credit. Offering variable credit.
 - Taught by anyone who is a member of ISG, or a practicing professional approved by the ISG.
 - There can be many sections, taught by different faculty/ to suit specific needs. So long as the objectives are met and grading scale is used; instructors have academic freedom.
 - Course can be offered over any timeframe; providing flexibility and appeal to a larger audience.
 - b. We are encouraged to tap into the many resources on campus that could, perhaps, help in the development of different sections of this course. i.e., the Writing Center, Career Services, and the Depts. of Marketing and Communications.
 - c. Mike O'Neill moved and it was seconded by Mukul Bansal to approve the new course proposal of ISG 57XX Professional Skills and Competencies. Motion carried unanimously
 - d. Next steps: Judy Brown will get the paperwork to the Grad School.

6. Review of PhD program and its status (Mike O'Neill)
 - a. This PhD program, the Doctorate for Systems Genomics, aims to provide a deeper integrative training in systems genomics, with a model curriculum that draws on the strengths and courses among different departments and campuses, allowing fluid movement among The Jackson Laboratory, UConn Health and UConn, and unparalleled opportunities for training and research collaborations.
 - b. Status Update: The Doctorate for Systems Genomics exists, but is shuttered.
 - Program received Board of Trustees approval in December 2014.
 - There is one student currently enrolled, who is fully funded by her employer.
 - Although there have been many interested applicants, the program is shuttered because there is no funding to support them.
 - There have been others interested in this program who could be fully funded by their employer.
 - c. The program aims for class size of 10, per year.

- d. The proposal is that ISG will support the students for the first 2 years, then funding will need to come from the supervising professor, or other. To fund 20 students, the ISG would need \$500,000/year.
- e. ISG looked into a Research Training Grant (T32), but has the understanding that new programs need to demonstrate a 5-year success rate before a T32 application will be supported.
- f. A PSM to PhD track has been considered.
- g. Next steps: demonstrating the need and viability of this program; and presenting it to the ISG Executive Committee.
 - Rachel will ask the ISG Executive Committee what format they'd prefer.
 - Look into having Charles Lee and Ed Liu review and endorse.
 - Demonstrate that there's a need for these students at Jax and UConn Health.
 - We aim to have the ISG Executive Committee's proposal to the Provost's Office prior to March.

2:20 Meeting adjourned by Judy Brown.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Williamson
ISG Program Assistant