

## ***J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering Faculty Meeting Minutes***

Wednesday, January 20, 2021  
3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Dan agrees to be minutes taker
2. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – December 16, 2020, minutes were passed without changes
3. **Welcome to newest faculty members in attendance** – Brittany, Meghan, and Ivana are new assistant professors. Ana Maria will join the department in Summer 2021.
4. **Important Dates to Note (mark your calendars!)**
  - Events
    - January 25 – Seminar, Dr. Elisa Fadda
    - February 1 – Seminar, Dr. Trey Crisco
    - February 8 – Seminar, Dr. Stephen Coombes
    - February 15 – Seminar, Dr. Carl Denard
    - February 25-27 – PhD recruitment
  - Awards Deadlines – Kyle encouraged people to be aware and apply for awards.
    - February 5 – Excellence Awards for Assistant Professors 2021
    - February 15 –2021-2022 University Scholars Program
5. **Discussion Items**
  - 5.1. Safety (Jon) – James will start tracking data about lab performance in regards to safety for the college safety committee using Gator TRACS. College safety committee is also putting together an onboarding safety tutorial for new faculty. Reminder that resumption to research forms need to get submitted to Christine.
  - 5.2. Diversity and Inclusion (Ayse) – The department Diversity and Inclusion student committee has changed their name to IDEA to match the college (Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access - IDEA). Amplifying black voices issue of BME magazine came out just recently. Black history is February, IDEA is working on related activities. Please forward ideas for them. Grad students have raised issue of international students having pay disparities and may not be willing to raise concerns. There is a new UF link to report incidents of bias or hate crimes (<https://respect.ufsa.ufl.edu>).
  - 5.3. Teaching Minute (Kevin) – Pete gave update on BME 4311 Molecular Biomedical Engineering. Ayse gave update on BME 4503L Biomedical Instrumentation Lab.
  - 5.4. Items Requiring Action
    - 5.4.1. Faculty Vote – dropping GRE for PhD (and MS) rates (Ben) - Christine and Ben presented benefits and disadvantages of dropping GRE. Discussion ensued. A Qualtrics survey will go out for voting on dropping GRE for grad applicants.
    - 5.4.2. Faculty Vote – Erica Moore: Request to promote from Affiliate to Affiliate with Graduate Faculty Status (Cherie) – Faculty vote unanimously to approve.
  - 5.5. Department and COE Updates and Discussion Items
    - 5.5.1. Minimum GA stipend & graduate student recruiting (Ben) – Ben provided an update on BME online recruiting event and reminded faculty we need to direct recruit this year.

Christine informed faculty some funds will be provided by the graduate school that will go towards grad students coming in for new faculty. Ben provided an overview of stipend levels at other universities. He recommended we make a minimum Ph.D. student stipend at \$30k. Faculty voted in favor of raising the stipend to \$30k.

- 5.5.2. COVID Concern Reporting on GATORSAFE (Ayse) Ayse brought to faculty attention the new student report mechanism to let administration know if instructors are not teaching in person. Discussion ensued. Faculty wanted more information about where the information was going and how the administration will act on it.

## 6. Adjournment

**Committees Not Reporting:** Faculty Search Committee (Greg); Research Committee (Dan); Tenure and Promotion Committee (Jon); UG Studies Committee (Lee)