

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

#### Establishment of the Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the graduate faculty in the Department of Bioengineering to offer the Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering, effective Winter Quarter 2010. The master's program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2014-2015 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

#### BACKGROUND

In November 2008, the Graduate School received a proposal from the graduate faculty in the Department of Bioengineering requesting authority to offer the Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering. Implementation is planned for Winter Quarter 2010, with the program anticipating 23 graduates per year at maturity. The program requires students to complete a minimum of 40 graduate credits over three years.

The Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering will be a self-sustaining professional degree, offered in partnership with UW Educational Outreach (UWEO). The program will be offered part-time via hybrid delivery (a blended curriculum of on-site meetings with online learning), primarily for working professionals in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

UWEO conducted market research surveys of area businesses and UW alumni to gauge corporate support for and student interest in the program. Survey outcomes were supportive of the program, both in terms of anticipated program content and delivery method. There are currently no other comparable master's level degree programs offered by another college or university in Washington State.

In April, 2009, the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School appointed two reviewers to evaluate the Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering proposal. Both reviewers were pharmaceutical sciences faculty at recognized universities, and both reviewers commented on and supported approval of the degree program.

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The Graduate School Council met on April 16, 2009, to discuss the proposal for the Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering. The Council recommended the program better articulate the following: faculty participation, options for a capstone experience, ongoing student demand, the relationship to UWEO certificates, and student financial aid. Once these issues were addressed the Council recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Higher Education

Coordinating Board (HECB) for review and approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

Bioengineering submitted a revised proposal to the Graduate School on May 12, 2009. The proposal was forwarded to the HECB and was approved by the full Board on September 29, 2009.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Engineering, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation for program implementation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' action on the Master of Pharmaceutical Bioengineering.