

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of a Graduate Certificate Program in Molecular Medicine in the Interdisciplinary Molecular Medicine ProgramRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Interdisciplinary Molecular Medicine Program to offer the Graduate Certificate in Molecular Medicine, effective immediately. The graduate certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2009-2010 academic year

BACKGROUND

In September 23, 2005, the Graduate School received a proposal from graduate faculty in the Interdisciplinary Molecular Medicine Program requesting authority to offer a Graduate Certificate in Molecular Medicine. The program is designed for Ph.D. students in basic science programs in the School of Medicine. The Molecular Medicine program will not overlap with any existing training programs. It will be located administratively within the Graduate School.

Molecular Medicine is an interdisciplinary approach to human biology and disease that integrates and applies advances in the basic biomedical sciences and in biotechnology to understanding, diagnosing and treating human disease. The purpose of training basic science Ph.D. students in Molecular Medicine is to provide them with a rigorous foundation in this emerging discipline. Students completing the Graduate Certificate Program will have mastered foundation knowledge defined by required courses, achieved fluency in the language of medicine, and received practical, and mentored experience in applying scientific and technological advances to the understanding and treatment of human disease.

Molecular Medicine is an emerging interdisciplinary area and is a recognized area of excellence at the University of Washington. It reflects an institutional culture that encourages interdisciplinary science and translational research. Prospective students and students currently in basic sciences Ph.D. programs have expressed a strong interest in questions related to human health and disease. Most students matriculate in Ph.D. training programs with the intention of working on aspects of biomedical research related to human health and disease. Biomedical science Ph.D. programs at the University of Washington have met part of this interest by providing training in a wide range of basic science disciplines related to medicine. What has been lacking is a coherent training experience designed to prepare Ph.D. students to carry out research on problems relevant to human disease, in a clinical

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of a Graduate Certificate Program in Molecular Medicine in the Interdisciplinary Molecular Medicine Program (continue p. 2)

setting or as part of an interdisciplinary research team that includes both physicians and basic

scientists. To meet this need, faculty from basic science departments in the School of Medicine and the College of Engineering developed the Molecular Medicine program which combines coursework, participation in clinics, and dual mentorship by a basic scientist and a clinically-trained or clinically-oriented research mentor.

On October 6, 2005, the Graduate School Council considered the proposal and recommended that it be approved. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with the Council's recommendation.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Education, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. Approval by the Higher Education Coordinating Board is not required for the Graduate Certificate proposal. The Graduate School will inform the HECB that the program has been established if it is approved by the Board of Regents.