

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Transfer of the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees offered by the Department of Pathobiology to the Graduate School

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to transfer the Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees from the Department of Pathobiology, located in the School of Public Health and Community (SPHCM) Medicine, to the Interdisciplinary Pathobiology Group in the Graduate School, effective immediately. The MS and PhD degree programs will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled by the Graduate School in the 2010-2011 academic year. At such time that the Board of Regents grants continuing status, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND

In November 2005, the Graduate School received the proposal from faculty in the Department of Pathobiology requesting authority to transfer the MS and PhD degree programs in Pathobiology to the Graduate School. The Pathobiology MS and PhD programs are currently located in the Department of Pathobiology, School of Public Health and Community Medicine. The program fills a unique niche for biologically-oriented studies of disease in human beings with a strong focus on infectious diseases of significant global impact such as parasitic and fungal infections, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes, and maternal-child health. Graduate faculty that are involved in the program have expertise in cell biology, microbiology, bioinformatics, genetics, biochemistry, immunology and nutrition.

Due to limited state funding and the lack of resources within the School of Public Health and Community Medicine to recruit new faculty and a chair, the Dean will request termination of the Department of Pathobiology. Faculty in the Department will receive appointments in other departments within SPHCM and other UW schools. Simultaneously, the Board of Regents approved the development of a new Department of Global Health (DGH) to be located jointly in the School of Medicine and the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. The new department is endowed with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Because of the strength of the graduate training program, its relevance to Global Health, and the anticipated appointments of many Pathobiology faculty members to Global Health, the program will be housed and supported by the DGH. All of the training faculty will, however, not have appointments in DGH, and therefore, the SPHCM Dean endorsed transfer of the Pathobiology graduate program to the Graduate School.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Transfer of the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees offered by the Department of Pathobiology to the Graduate School (continued p. 3)

This transfer will permit the graduate program to maintain the integrity of its interdisciplinary training faculty which includes members with primary or adjunct appointments in 9 UW departments within 4 schools or colleges, 4 research institutes, and a non-profit foundation. It will also assure continuity in training for the 48 current graduate students and newly admitted graduate students. The Pathobiology graduate program has grown during its 15-year existence. Currently 8-10 students enter the program each year. It is anticipated that the proposed change will help to increase and strengthen the potential applicant pool.

On April 20, 2006, the Graduate School Council considered the proposal to transfer the MS and PhD degree programs from the Department of Pathobiology to the Graduate School and recommended that it be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with the Council's recommendation. Upon transfer of the graduate program to the Graduate School it will be administered by graduate faculty of the newly established Interdisciplinary Pathobiology Group.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents action on the Pathobiology graduate program.