

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Elimination of the Department of Pathobiology, School of Public Health and Community MedicineRECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Department of Pathobiology in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine be eliminated effective June 20, 2008.

REVIEW PROCESS:

In September 2006, the Dean of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine requested authority to initiate a formal review, as described in Section 26-41 Procedures for Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs, to eliminate the Department of Pathobiology in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. After consultation with the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting, the requested authority was granted by Provost Wise. In March 2007, the Faculty Council and the Program Identification Committee (PIC) for the School of Public Health and Community Medicine submitted a report that neither supported nor opposed the proposed elimination of the Department of Pathobiology; but rather suggested that additional information be provided to present a clear and compelling case for elimination. This additional documentation was prepared by the Dean.

Subsequently, a review committee was appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate. In April 2007, the Review Committee for the Elimination of the Department of Pathobiology submitted its report to President Emmert and Provost Wise. Consistent with Section 26-41B, the Committee conducted an open review, which included comment from faculty and students. The Committee concluded that the Department of Pathobiology should be eliminated. The review of the Department of Pathobiology was presented to the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting and considered at its meeting of May 21, 2007.

RATIONALE FOR AND EFFECT OF ELIMINATION:

The elimination of the Department of Pathobiology was proposed in response to insufficient resources, including but not limited to state and RCR funds and laboratory space and equipment. The Department of Pathobiology does not support a discipline that is required for an accredited school of public health and the SPHCM has critical resource needs in the accreditation required core disciplines; therefore, additional resources for the Department of Pathobiology, even if available, would not be given the highest priority.

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To assure the continued access of faculty members across campus and at affiliated institutes to advise and mentor Pathobiology graduate students and to teach in the academic program, application was approved for the Pathobiology graduate program to become an interdisciplinary program in the Graduate School. Students currently enrolled in the program will be provided an opportunity to complete the program requirements as outlined prior to this transition.

University-paid faculty members appointed in tenure-track, tenured, without tenure by reason of funding (Without Tenure), and research positions within the Department of Pathobiology will be supported in their efforts to transfer their appointments within the SPHCM or to other health sciences units. WOT and research professors paid directly by University affiliated organizations will be notified in writing of their proposed removal for reason of department elimination. Alternative placement and appointment of these faculty members will be considered as available and appropriate. Adjunct and other annual appointments in the Department of Pathobiology will be considered for transfer to other applicable units within the SPHCM.