

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

## A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Graduate Certificate in Computational Molecular BiologyRECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to graduate faculty in the Interdisciplinary Computational Molecular Biology Program to offer the Graduate Certificate in Computational Molecular Biology, effective immediately. The certificate program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled in the 2013-2014 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin.

BACKGROUND:

In October 2007, the Graduate School received a proposal from the graduate faculty in the Interdisciplinary Computational Molecular Biology Program (CMB) requesting authority to offer the Graduate Certificate in Computational Molecular Biology. Program implementation will be Autumn Quarter 2008, with the program anticipating steady-state enrollment of 29 students each year.

The Computational Molecular Biology Program was founded in 1999 by faculty from several University of Washington departments and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and recognized as an Interdisciplinary Program Committee in 2000. Computational molecular biology is emerging as an essential tool in biological research, with applications in drug discovery, cancer research, epidemiology, genetic counseling, and conservation biology, among other areas. The program has brought together UW doctoral students and faculty who work in computational biology and bioinformatics.

Doctoral students in any of the member departments are eligible to apply to the graduate certificate program in their first or second year of graduate school. The CMB courses and projects are in addition to students' respective department doctoral degree program requirements. The CMB curriculum provide in depth examination of theory and practice to prepare graduate students for independent work in this field. A need has existed for official recognition on students' transcripts for the course work and research projects completed in the program. Award of the graduate certificate responds to increased demand from graduate students for formal recognition of their training in computational molecular biology on their transcripts and will also make them more attractive to employers.

The Graduate School Council met on April 17, 2008, to discuss the Computational Molecular Biology Graduate Certificate Program proposal. The Council recommended unanimously that the proposed program should be approved and that it be forwarded to

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### A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

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the Board of Regents for final approval. The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School concurred with the Council's recommendation.

The Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Education in the School of Medicine 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.