

VI. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of the Graduate Certificate in International Bioethics, Social Justice and Health in the School of LawRECOMMENDED 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 School of Law to offer the Graduate Certificate in International Bioethics, Social Justice and Health, 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 February 2008, the Graduate School received a proposal from the graduate faculty in the School of Law requesting authority to offer the Graduate Certificate in International Bioethics, Social Justice and Health. Implementation is planned for Autumn Quarter 2008, with the program anticipating 15 enrolled students at maturity (2012-2013).

The International Bioethics, Social Justice and Health Graduate Certificate Program will allow students the opportunity to integrate the study of international bioethics and social justice mechanisms with the global problem of health disparities. This program will be available to matriculated graduate and professional students as well as non-matriculated graduate students, including, but not limited to, international scholars and fellows engaged in research and funded training programs at UW.

This Certificate program responds to the increasing demand among UW graduate and professional students for training and knowledge on the role of bioethics and human rights in designing, monitoring and assessing health research, policy and healthcare delivery systems around the world. Much of this interest is fueled by the growing concern and international response to global health disparities. Among law students, there has been a documented increase in the number of students who have self-identified as students interested in global health and international bioethics. The certificate will draw UW graduate and professional students from disciplines including Law, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, Social Work, International Studies, and Public Affairs. All of these Schools have ongoing programs and commitment to the research enterprise focusing on bioethics and social justice. Notably, the need for clinical and research ethics training is especially strident across virtually all the Health Sciences departments, particularly those that are home to Fogarty grants and other international research efforts.

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Establishment of the Graduate Certificate in International Bioethics, Social Justice and Health in the School of Law (continued p. 2)

The Graduate School Council met on April 3, 2008, to discuss the proposal for the Graduate Certificate in International Bioethics, Social Justice and Health. The Council recommended unanimously that the proposal should be approved and 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.

The Dean of the School of Law 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.