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February 21, 2001

To: Lee L. Huntsman
Provost

From: Marsha L. Landolt 
Dean and Vice Provost

Re: MS in Dentistry 10-year Review

Summary and recommended action

At its meeting of December 14, 2000, the Graduate School Council met with members of the MS in Dentistry review team and School of Dentistry representatives. The Graduate School Council recommended continuation of the MS in Dentistry, and commended the program for being a leader in its field.

The self-study, the report of the review committee, the School's response and correspondence to the School prior to the second meeting of the Council are attached.

Background

The MSD was last reviewed in 1987. The program is part of the advanced specialty program that provides education in endodontics, oral medicine, oral pathology, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics and prosthodontics. Those students desiring more formal education and research within their clinical specialization enter the MSD program. The program seeks to educate practicing clinical specialists as well as to train faculty for schools of dentistry. About 17 students complete the degree annually. The students think very highly of the program and are enthusiastic supporters upon graduation.

The School, which enjoys a well-established record among Schools of Dentistry for its research program, is well equipped to offer such a degree and is considered a national leader. Entrance to the program is highly competitive, with an applicant to accepted ratio of 30:1. Ninety percent of the students accepted to Advanced Specialty Programs also enroll for the MSD, and 80% of these complete the MS. Seventy faculty serve as mentors. The record of students upon completion is strong, e.g., 75% have submitted manuscripts for publication and 60% have already seen theirs published. The program was regarded as outstanding by the review team.

The review team recommendations included (1) development of School wide oversight and vision for the program, (2) assignment of the School's Associate Deans for Academic Affairs and Research as permanent *ex officio* members of the Graduate Program Directors Committee, (3) appointment of the chair of the Graduate Program Directors Committee as an *ex officio* member of

the Faculty Council, (4) paying greater attention to overseeing the composition of thesis supervisory committees and bringing all specialty disciplines to a more uniform level of academic expectation for their graduate students and (5) encouraging pathways with small numbers of research opportunities to pursue multidisciplinary research projects. The School positively responded to each suggestion. The review team congratulated the School on the job it does in mentoring not only its graduate students, but also its junior faculty.

Enclosures

c: Richard McCormick, President
Paul Robertson, Dean, School of Dentistry
Debra Friedman, Associate Provost for Academic Planning
John Slattery, Associate Dean for Academic Programs
Members of the Review Committee:
Professors Wayne Crill (Chair), Physiology and Biophysics, Jean Dietz,
Rehabilitation Medicine, Elaine Faustman, Environmental Health,
Katherine Dryland Vig, Orthodontics (Ohio State University), Robert Feigal,
Pediatric Dentistry (University of Michigan)
Graduate School Council
Augustine McCaffery, Assistant to the Dean
Danielle LaVaque-Manty, Assistant to the Dean