



November 29, 1999

Department of
Comparative Medicine

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TO: Dr. Marsha Landolt
Dean, The Graduate School

FROM: Melvin B. Dennis, Jr., D.V.M. *Melvin B. Dennis Jr.*
Chair, Department of Comparative Medicine

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of the Graduate School Committee

1. **Recommendation that the program be converted to continuing status:** On behalf of the department, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the committee members for their comprehensive review and their perspectives on the program. Their recommendations and suggestions are a major contribution to the continuing development of the program.
2. **Recommendation that all post-doctoral students complete the MS degree:** This recommendation is accepted by the faculty. Since it is hard to change the rules "after the ball game starts" this requirement will be implemented with individuals entering the program in 2000. In addition, individual meetings with current trainees will be scheduled to explore the feasibility of the MS degree.
3. **Recommendation that the MS program be expanded to non-D.V.M.s:** The department concurs with the concept of a MS degree for exceptional individuals with a Bachelor's degree who are interested in Master's-level research careers, such as a research project co-ordinator. We think that the MS program in Epidemiology is a good model and envision "core" activities and courses with two or three options, e.g., pathobiology and technology of genetically altered mouse models of human disease. A subcommittee is being appointed to further develop specific proposals.
4. **Recommendation that the Department not pursue a Ph.D. program at this time:** The faculty in the department concur with the committee's opinion. Progress has been made during the past six months in obtaining additional NIH research support, and we plan to review this long term goal of the group in approximately three years, i.e., 2002.

Suggestions:

1. That course syllabi be revised and consistent for each course with well-stated written goals and objectives - This suggestion was given a top priority. At a faculty meeting on September 14-15, 1999, Dr. Fine presented a verbal report of the graduate committee's review of the program. Subsequently, a consultant, Dr. Craig Scott, Professor, Department of Medical

Education, discussed the rationale and format for course syllabi. He also reviewed the department's previous course materials and made suggestions for reorganizing the courses in association with the development of more comprehensive syllabi. Excerpts from the first draft of a syllabus for the course in the Autumn Quarter are attached for illustrative purposes. Each instructor is currently submitting secondary objectives, a lecture outline, required reading(s) and additional suggested reading and resources (including URL's) for each session, which will be included in the syllabus.

2. That a standard schedule of classes be determined - Beginning with the 99-00 school year, all classes (except C MED 590 and a tutorial) are offered during the Autumn, Winter and Spring Quarters. Selected Topics [C MED 590(1)] will be offered in the Summer Quarter in addition to the Spring Quarter in order to expand the topics presented; a tutorial will also be conducted from July 1 until the week preceding the Autumn Quarter for trainees during their first year to cover prerequisite material for the rotations and subsequent courses.

3. That informational recruitment material be updated annually and current faculty CVs included - The brochures for individuals inquiring about the program are currently being revised in accordance with the committee's suggestion.

4. That former students be surveyed on an annual basis - A survey form will be developed to obtain feedback from individuals that have recently completed the program.

GVH:ar
Attachment