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June 18, 2007

To: Phyllis Wise, Provost
Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean
Melissa Austin, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

RE: Review of the Department of Laboratory Medicine

At its meeting of April 19, 2007, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the Department of Laboratory Medicine (Kent L. Kunze, Associate Professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, (Committee Chair); Carol B. Ware, Research Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Medicine) and with James Fine, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Mary Lampe, Associate Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Medicine, Wayne Chandler, Professor, Chief-of-Service, Laboratory Medicine, and John Slattery, Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Education, School of Medicine.

The Department was established in 1969 and is responsible for all clinical testing on patient blood and other samples for the UW Medical Center, Harborview Medical Center, the UW Physician Network clinics, as well as other hospitals and clinics, and has a major federally funded research component. The Department currently offers the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in the Medical Technology Program (MTP) and Master of Science (MS) degree with eight different pathways (Chemistry, Coagulation, Hematology/Hematopathology, Immunology, Microbiology, Virology, Laboratory Management, and Molecular Diagnostics/Genetics). The last review of the Department was completed in June, 1994. The current review committee, including its external members (Linda A. Smith, Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, The University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX and Michael Y. Tsai, Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN) held its formal on-site review on May 11-12, 2006.

The Review Committee reported on four major points: 1) overall, the program is in excellent shape; 2) the Committee was impressed by the program's standing as one of the top laboratory medicine programs in the country; 3) the Committee was impressed by the scope and knowledge

of the Department's leadership; and 4) the lack of state funding for the program was a topic for much discussion among the Review Committee. There is clearly a need for graduates in this field. There is a shortage of medical technicians, and increasing the size of the program would benefit both the community and region. The Review Committee found the students to be involved, articulate, and knowledgeable. Please see a summary of the Review Committee recommendations on the attached page.

The Department Chairman noted that the program provides an important service to the region, and yet receives no monetary support from the UW. The program trains undergraduate medical technicians, resident physicians, and offers a master's program. It seeks to be the #1 program in the nation. The Department also has prominent ongoing research in the field, and runs all the clinical labs for the UW Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center. Income earned from testing fees supports the training program. Each year the graduates of the master's degree and undergraduate medical technicians are recruited from all over the country. The Department would like to expand the program, but its resources are limited.

During the discussion, it was suggested that the program consider recruiting students from outside the region. Although evaluations from 2001-2004 indicate improvement has occurred with student supervision and guidance, it was noted that there does not seem to be any student involvement in Department governance. The program's structure provides meeting with students regularly to assess their progress, and, in fact student input influenced the creation of two new tracks. The Department is located two floors below ground where students, doctoral fellows, and faculty are mixed together. Thus, the students have easy access to faculty and staff, and there is an environment of openness between faculty and students. The School of Medicine administration stated this was an excellent review, acknowledging that the Review Committee points are right on target.

The Graduate School Council agreed with the Review Committee recommendation that the degrees offered by the Department be reaffirmed for continuing status, and that the Department of Laboratory Medicine be reviewed again in 10 years, during the 2016-2017 academic year. We concur with this recommendation.

Attachment

- c: John T. Slattery, Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Education, School of Medicine
Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Janice M. DeCosmo, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
James S. Fine, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Laboratory Medicine
S. M. Hossein Sadrzadeh, Associate Professor, Graduate Program Coordinator,
Department of Laboratory Medicine
Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School
Department of Laboratory Medicine Review Committee
Graduate School Council

Department of Laboratory Medicine Program Review
Summary of Review Committee Recommendations
April 19, 2007

The review committee reaffirmed the continuing status of the B.S. and M.S. degree programs and that they be reviewed in 10 years.

B.S. in Medical Technology

The program faces many of the same challenges as other clinical laboratory science programs throughout the country.

1. A challenge is the balance of graduates needed vs. the number of positions vacant.
2. Although the program could accommodate increased enrollment for junior level lecture and student laboratories, the problem would be the lack of a foreseeable increase in rotation sites and students' ability to work at distant sites.
3. Consider options that attract increased number of students from distant areas so that students may be more amenable to perform clinical rotations in an area close to home. The program may need to stipulate that each student spend one rotation at a distant site.
4. Add anatomy/physiology as a prerequisite. Consider more appropriate biochemistry courses focused on human pathways that could fit in the curriculum.
5. Students would benefit from the addition of a molecular diagnostics track as more research and clinical testing moves in this direction.
6. Move the lecture/lab course at the end of the junior year to the beginning of the senior year before hospital rotations and include additional Blood Center experience since it performs all testing for UW and Harborview medical centers.

M.S. in Laboratory Medicine

1. New program tracks. The two new program tracks (laboratory management and molecular diagnostics/genetics) may be considered strength but a consequence is the increased size of the program. Selection of courses recommended in the management track is too wide. A more defined curriculum may provide better guidance for students.
2. Program size. While there seems to be a fair number of applicants, the program in the past has taken only 1-3 new students per year. The committee was some concerned about the small number of students spread over a multi-track program.
3. Student funding. The committee recommends that the department along with the University fund 3-4 25% assistantships for first year students; also that faculty who have grants fund graduate student (25-50%) research assistantships while students work on thesis projects. Consider funding 1-2 second year students whose thesis work may be relevant to the department's mission related to Reference Laboratory activities.
4. Management track. The committee recommends that the director work with faculty to narrow the selection of courses in the management track and help students define the necessary experience needed for success as future managers of clinical laboratories or in related areas such as laboratories of biotechnology companies etc.