



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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December 21, 2005

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  
The Graduate School

RE: Department of Oral Biology Review

At its meeting of December 1, 2005, the Graduate School Council met with members of the team that reviewed the Department of Oral Biology and with Martha Somerman (Dean of the School of Dentistry), Kenneth Izutsu (Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Biology), and Beverly Dale-Crunk (Director of the Oral Biology Graduate Program).

The Department of Oral Biology was last reviewed in 1994. The M.S. and Ph.D. programs were granted continuing status at that time, with subsequent review in 10 years. The Department currently offers the only Ph.D. program in the School of Dentistry, in addition to a DDS/Ph.D. program and two masters degree programs: the Master of Science in Oral Biology and the Master of Science for Dental Hygiene Educators. The review site visit was conducted on May 9-10, 2005, at which time the review committee met with Department faculty, students, and staff.

The review committee emphasized that the continued success of the highly effective Department of Oral Biology is dependent on:

- 1) Attracting the top quality U.S. students; and
- 2) Increasing the stability of the faculty in this small department by finding effective ways to transition to new leadership when senior faculty retire in the next few years.

In addition, the Review Committee noted in its report that the continuation of the Ph.D. program is imperative, and that the recently implemented DDS/Ph.D. program shows great promise.

The Graduate School Council recommended that the Department carefully examine and articulate their expressed need for TA positions. If this reflects a need for student teaching experience, the Department might actively pursue teaching opportunities outside the unit for its students or they might create supervised teaching opportunities that are not tied to TA positions. If TAs are needed to fill an instructional need in the Department, a detailed case should be made to the Provost's Office, based on factors such as teaching load and student credit hours.

The Council also urged the Department to find an appropriate control mechanism to assure that the quality of student assessment remains adequate in the face of eliminating the preliminary exam.

The Graduate School recommends the Department of Oral Biology M.S. and Ph.D. programs be granted continuing status, with the next review conducted in the 2014-2015 academic year.

c: Mark Emmert, President  
Martha Somerman, Dean, School of Dentistry  
Kenneth Izutsu, Professor and Chair, Department of Oral Biology  
Beverly Dale-Crunk, Director of the Oral Biology Graduate Program  
Adam Grupp, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate  
David Canfield-Budde, Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School  
Members of the Department of Oral Biology Review Committee  
Graduate School Council