



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
The Graduate School
G-1 Communications
Box 353770
Seattle, Washington 98195-3770

Telephone: (206)543-5900

Fax: (206)685-3234

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To: Phyllis Wise, Provost
Douglas J. Wadden, Executive Vice Provost
Office of the Provost, Box 351237

From: Suzanne Ortega, Vice Provost and Dean
James Soto Antony, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

RE: Review of the Statistical Genetics Graduate Certificate Program

At its meeting of November 29, 2007, the Graduate School Council met with the Chair of the team that reviewed the Statistical Genetics Graduate Certificate Program, Peter H. Byers (Professor, Departments of Pathology and Medicine), review committee member Mark Kot (Associate Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics) and with the Program Director, Elizabeth Thompson (Professor, Department of Statistics) Mark Handcock (Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics), Bruce Weir, (Professor and Chair, Biostatistics). Emily White, Associate Dean, School of Public Health and Medicine, and Werner Stuetzle, Divisional Dean of Natural Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, were also in attendance. The program review process included a charge meeting on October 18, 2007, between members of the review committee and administrators involved in the review. The site visit, held on April 2-3, 2007, included in-person participation by external reviewer Daniel E. Weeks, Professor, Human Genetics and Biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Speaking to the Council on November 29, Professor Byers outlined findings and recommendations from the Review Committee Report (submitted April 13, 2007). The review committee found that the Statistical Genetics faculty are dedicated, the quality of instruction is superb, and students are an exceptionally qualified group. There was particular praise for the core courses that are the strength of the certificate program, with special recognition of the definition, organization, and achievement of learning objectives that occurs in these courses. The committee also noted that enrollment is less than the size that was projected in the initial proposal for the certificate program however, with a change in Graduate School policy in 2006, the program was made available to graduate non-matriculated students. This step is expected to lead to an increase in the number of students working toward certificate completion. In regard to this situation the review committee recommended that the availability of the certificate be much

more widely publicized within and outside the University. The review committee recommended that the Statistical Genetics Graduate Certificate Program be continued. A detailed list of review committee recommendations can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the review committee report.

Professor Thompson responded that the program has taken steps to follow up on the review committee's recommendations. A Steering Committee has been established, faculty involvement in the program has been expanded, and a faculty retreat is planned to discuss the curriculum. She also acknowledged the need for additional administrative support. The Biostatistics and Statistics department chairs attested to the high quality of the program and expressed their support for it.

The Council voiced underlying support for the Statistical Genetics program and explicitly noted the program's quality. The Council discussion centered on the relatively small numbers of certificate-seeking students and the need for more outreach to students in related disciplines and greater visibility for the program. The Council recommended that the program faculty develop a plan for long-term leadership of the program. The Council also recommended the next review of the Statistical Genetics Graduate Certificate Program should be done in conjunction with the Statistical Genetics Ph.D. pathways in the Departments of Statistics and Biostatistics. The Department of Statistics will be reviewed in 2008-2009 and the Department of Biostatistics in the 2013-2014 academic year.

We concur with these comments and recommendations.

- c: Ana Mari Cauce, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
 Patricia Wahl, Dean, School of Public Health and Community Medicine
 Werner Stuetzle, Divisional Dean for Natural Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences
 Frederick Connell, Associate Dean, School of Public Health and Community Medicine
 Elizabeth Thompson, Professor, Department of Statistics, Director, Statistical Genetics Graduate Certificate Program
 Bruce Weir, Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics
 Mark Handcock, Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics
 Jake Faleschini, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
 Statistical Genetics Review Committee Members
 Graduate School Council Members
 Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School