

## Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

### MEMO

**To:** The UVM Faculty Senate

**From:** Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Colby Kervick, Co-Chair

**Date:** September 2, 2021

**Re:** Approval of a proposal from the Graduate College and Larner College of Medicine for a no contest termination of both the M.S. and the Ph.D. in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics

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On September 2, 2021, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

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The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the Graduate College and the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) for a “no-contest” termination of the Ph.D. and MS programs in Molecular Physiology and Biophysics.

The Molecular Physiology and Biophysics M.S. and PHD programs stopped accepting new students in 2013. At that time the Graduate College and the campus-wide interdisciplinary Cell and Molecular Biology program partnered with the College of Medicine, the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and other departments in the College of Medicine to support an expanded campus-wide interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Sciences (CMB). Given the sustained success of the CMB program, the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics has no plans to actively recruit into their departmental M.S. or PHD programs again.

The last Molecular Physiology & Biophysics M.S. student graduated in January, 2009 and the last Molecular Physiology & Biophysics Ph.D. student graduated in May, 2018. Thus, there are no current students who need to be accommodated during the termination process.

The Department notes that terminating the Molecular Physiology and Biophysics M.S. will allow them to continue to commit resources, including faculty mentoring and teaching efforts to help train and support Ph.D. Students, to the CMB program. The CMB program does not accept entry level M.S. students, but there is an M.S. degree in the event a student requests or is advised to complete an M.S. after beginning the doctoral program.

A vote of the departmental faculty for terminating the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Molecular Physiology & Biophysics was unanimous. A total of 9 faculty voted, 9 in favor of termination and none opposed. Termination of the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Molecular Physiology & Biophysics, is supported by the Larner College of Medicine Graduate Education Committee, Chaired by Dr. Christopher L. Berger, Associate Dean for Undergraduate & Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Training, and senior leadership, including Dean Richard L. Page and Senior Associate Dean for Research Gordon L. Jensen. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the no contest termination should go into effect during the 2022-23 catalog year.

