

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 the Ph.D. in Pharmacology

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

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the Graduate College and the Department of Pharmacology and the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) to terminate the Ph.D. in Pharmacology. This is a no contest termination having been initiated by the department and supported by the department chair, LCOM Associate Dean Chris Berger and LCOM Dean Rick Page. It was also supported by a unanimous vote of its faculty. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the no contest termination should go into effect in during the 2022-23 catalog year.

The Pharmacology Ph.D. program 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 Pharmacology 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). The CMB program has been very successful, as evidenced by the faculty's satisfaction and by the recently completed Academic Program Review. With 61 students, it is the largest Ph.D. program at UVM and embodies a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to science critical to the success of their students.

Given the sustained success of the CMB program, the Department of Pharmacology has no plans to actively recruit into their Ph.D. program again. The last Pharmacology Ph.D. student graduated in January 2016. Thus, there are no current students who need to be accommodated during the termination process. The Department notes that terminating the Pharmacology Ph.D. 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. If approved by the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees, the no contest termination should go into effect during the 2022-23 catalog year.