

2/13/2023

To: Dr. Praveen Sekhar, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

From: Dr. Dori Borjesson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

RE: Proposal to Create a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmaceutical and Medical Sciences

I have been asked to provide feedback to the Academic Affairs Committee regarding the proposal to create a BS Degree in Pharmaceutical and Medical Sciences to be taught in Spokane through the College of Pharmacy.

I recognize that there is substantial overlap between the courses taught by both SBS (College of Arts Sciences) and SMB (College of Vet Med) with the classes in the new proposed degree in Spokane, College of Pharmacy. The document provided by Dr. Mike Griswold and SMB educators detail this fully. The CVM and the CAS have largely been the home of STEM, pre-health curriculum at WSU.

Currently CVM leadership is divided on how problematic this new degree program will be for our Pullman-based programs, especially for transfer students. Dr. Bill Davis, interim vice provost for academic engagement and student achievement, and professor in SMB, has been aware of the proposed degree for awhile, acknowledges the overlap but also has reviewed the statistics on transfer students from Spokane, UG pre-pharmacy students (about 51/year in Pullman, divided between SBS and SMB), degrees they select etc. These data have also been reviewed by Dr. Samantha Gizerian, Associated Dean, UG education, CVM. Both concur that the real affect on our UG program enrollment will likely be minimal.

As Dean, I recognize the need for new solutions to our undergraduate enrollment challenges. I recognize the very real challenges for professional student enrollment in the College of Pharmacy and I laud Dr. Leid for some of his creative approaches to increase our regional student enrollment and potentially increase both the number of UG in his program but also provide a pipeline into pharmacy professional school.

I have proposed to Daryll DeWald that in March we hold a half day retreat to discuss in a fully transparent way the current goals of the Health Sciences in undergraduate education moving forward. We are hopeful to be working together for a Public Health degree and I would love to find ways to find new innovative curriculum that could truly expand our reach and engagement holistically rather than repeating courses in Spokane and Pullman, although there is bound to be some overlap. This proposed degree has been an impetus to address this larger concern. I believe much of the concern for this proposal is precedent...and I concur with that concern. We do need to find ways of dealing with these issues as OneWSU and I am willing to do that.

If this degree moves forward, ***I think data should be collected annually on the number of enrolled students and from where they are being recruited.*** If the goals of the degree are met,

and this degree does open up education opportunities for place-bound Spokane students, it will be a win. Transparency will help inform new opportunities...in some ways this could be viewed as a pilot to see if it truly shifts/diminshes Pullman pre-health UG enrollments or not.

In short, if I were the Dean of the College of Pharmacy, I would want the opportunity to enhance UG enrollment and engage with Spokane. I genuinely hope this will be the outcome and it will be one step towards attracting more students, not shifting our current students.

Sincerely, Dori



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