

Board Meeting
January 19, 2017

ELIMINATE THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPARATIVE BIOSCIENCES,
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, URBANA

Action: Eliminate the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine to eliminate the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biosciences.

The College of Veterinary Medicine is restructuring its doctoral education by uniting currently existing departmental doctoral-level programs into a single program, which will be administered by a college-level steering committee rather than at the departmental level. As referenced in a companion item, this unified program in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBMS) will be supported by graduate courses taught by faculty in all three College of Veterinary Medicine departments. It will rely on both courses already available as well as newly developed courses which will specifically reflect the interactive nature of the restructured program. In keeping with its diversified training missions, the College of Veterinary Medicine's faculty possess a combination of

basic and clinical research experience across a broad range of biomedical disciplines that constitute the academic core of this comprehensive doctoral program in CBMS.

With the proposed creation of the Ph.D. in CBMS, which represents a unified, single doctoral degree program, the College of Veterinary Medicine is also proposing elimination of its three existing doctoral programs, one of which is the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biosciences. This restructuring of doctoral programs aims to ensure a uniformly rigorous didactic standard; to expose students to the use of comparative animal models to investigate biological mechanisms of health and disease; to provide each student with outstanding research training in the biomedical sciences; and to teach the molecular and cellular bases of health and disease. It is expected that this restructuring will result in an increase in the total number of Ph.D. students in the College of Veterinary Medicine and in increased racial and ethnic diversity of both the students and the faculty.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.