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April 15, 2010

Professor Peter Lange
Provost
Office of the Provost
220 Allen Building
Campus

Dear Peter,

I am writing to inform you of action taken at the April 14th meeting of the Academic Programs Committee regarding the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics' proposal for a new professional degree—a Masters in Biostatistics. The committee voted unanimously to approve the new program as described in the proposal documents. The committee was impressed by the careful, thorough development of the academic proposal. In addition, the financial plan is now sound, with appropriate backstopping in the early years from appropriate sources. There remains concern about details of the program implementation, regarding support services such as English proficiency and training for international students and career services. While some of these issues must necessarily be worked out as the program planning continues, it will be important that administrative guidance and oversight be provided so that the program will achieve the level of success to which it aspires. We want to assure that the review schedule described in the proposal documents is a successful enterprise for the department, the program and the APC.

The committee recommends that this oversight sit in the office of the Dean of Medical Education, and that the current Dean provide a letter to you accepting this responsibility. This letter could then accompany the materials to be presented at ECAC and the Academic Council, avoiding any delay as those bodies deal with the same issues about which we have been concerned. We recommend that the Dean of Medical Education commit to provide you with an annual update of the implementation process and start-up phase of the degree. After a period of three years, the degree program should be reviewed. Currently the plan is for the review to be carried out by the School of Medicine and reported to APC; we understand this process may change if the new Masters Advisory Council is established, in which case the guidelines adopted by this group would determine the review process.

We hope that this recommendation for consistent oversight through the initiation phase and the early review of the program will assure the success that both APC and the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics expect of this much-needed professional degree program.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Smith-Lovin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a distinct "L" at the end.

Lynn Smith-Lovin
Robert L. Wilson Professor of Arts and Sciences
Chair, Academic Program Committee

Cc:

John Simon
Sharon Peters
Elizabeth DeLong
Gregory Samsa
Dawn Hails
Ed Buckley
Nancy Andrews