

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN
VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC AND PRODUCTION ANIMAL MEDICINE
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to terminate the Master of Science Program in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine (VDPAM).

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Program is intended to increase resource efficiency and to resolve the confusion of having two similar programs in the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine. Furthermore, the VDPAM program has not had any student enrollment since 2007. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan strategy (4.1.1) to “pursue opportunities to realize greater efficiency in operations, consistent with best practices in the delivery of education and other services.”

Background:

- ◇ History of program. After the creation of the Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine Department in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997, faculty with expertise in preventive medicine and other specialties were placed in the department. Subsequently, the Master of Science Program in VDPAM was approved by the Board of Regents in 2002. At approximately the same time, the Master of Science Program in Preventive Medicine was transferred from the Department of Microbiology and Preventive Medicine into VDPAM because the expertise of the faculty was in this area.
- ◇ Description of VDPAM program. The program is focused on the assessment of health and disease in populations of animals and the development of methods to study populations of animals. The disciplines represented in the program are unified by a common approach based on the application of epidemiological and statistical methods to enable quantitative evaluation and critical appraisal of clinical and research data for the purpose of continuously establishing best production practices for health assurance; and to provide the principles and tools for design and execution of hypothesis-based research in production animal units or in research trials supporting animal health issues.
- ◇ Master of Science Program in Veterinary Preventive Medicine. This multidisciplinary program is focused on the study of health and disease in populations. The disciplines represented in the program are unified by a common approach based on the application of statistical methods to problem-solving in populations. Students learn to understand and apply a variety of disciplines, principles, and techniques to population health issues involving environmental, ecological, nutritional, genetic, infectious, and non-infectious diseases.

- ◇ Program challenges. The VDPAM program has experienced a number of challenges:
 - The similarity of the Master of Science Program in VDPAM and the Master of Science Program in Veterinary Preventive Medicine has confused students which has affected recruiting.
 - The similarity of the two programs has diluted the number of students in both programs which has reduced the department's competitiveness for training grants and national prominence.
 - The enrollment projected in the Master of Science Program in VDPAM proposal did not materialize. The department had projected an initial enrollment of eight students with a growth to 12 students per year. In fact, only a total of six students enrolled since the program was implemented. No students were enrolled during 2008-09.
 - Only four students have graduated from the program since its inception.
 - The title "Veterinary Preventive Medicine" is more widely recognized. For example, one of the specialist boards in veterinary medicine is the "American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine." The umbrella organization for epidemiologists in the United States is the Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.
- ◇ Impact on students. The proposed program termination will not affect students interested in this area of study because the Master of Science Program in Veterinary Medicine is available.
- ◇ Program resources. There are no students enrolled in the VDPAM program. No courses were taught exclusively for the VDPAM program. Existing program resources are currently allocated to the Master of Science Program in Veterinary Preventive Medicine.