

RECOMMENDATION TO DISSOLVE THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

This recommendation to dissolve the Department of Pharmacology is the final step in a School of Medicine and Public Health reorganization process to realign three of its basic science departments (anatomy, pharmacology and physiology) into two new departments.

In September 2009, SMPH initiated its restructuring process through the formation of a review committee composed of faculty from the affected departments as well as from other departments in the school. Last year, that process resulted in the creation of the Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology and the Department of Neuroscience through the dissolution of the departments of anatomy and physiology and subsequent realignment of their associated faculty and staff and existing courses. International searches are underway to recruit chairs for the two new departments.

Following the realignment of those two departments, nine of the twelve members of the Department of Pharmacology requested and were approved for tenure home transfers to other SMPH departments. The three remaining faculty members subsequently voted to dissolve the department. Two of those three faculty have since transferred to the Department of Neuroscience, and a new tenure home for the third is being worked out. Classified staff and most of the department's academic staff have been reassigned to other departments (three academic staff were laid off or received non-renewal notices due to loss of adequate research funding). The pharmacology graduate program has always been interdisciplinary, with its students from a wide variety of departments. The courses within pharmacology are overseen by interdepartmental committees, and the closure of the department should not have an impact on the 42 to 44 students in the pharmacology graduate program. The pharmacology budget allocation will be redistributed between the two new departments.

This recommendation has been approved by the SMPH Academic Planning Council and the University Academic Planning Council. Pursuant to *Faculty Policies and Procedures* 5.01.A., it is presented to the Faculty Senate for discussion.