Cyril,

Here is the basis for my comments on our just completed phone call.

Bruce Rettig and I have read the draft self-study document and I examined my notes from previous meetings with you and Sally, plus reviewed what email exchanges I could find about the graduate programs in Veterinary Medicine.

Please correct me if this is not an accurate summary of the history.

The M.S. in Veterinary Science was last reviewed by the Graduate Council in 1996, and it should have been reviewed in the 2006-7 academic year.

Notes from a meeting with you and Sally in December 2007 indicate that you would provide the Graduate School with a proposal for the future of the M.S. in Veterinary Science in February, 2008. At that time there were no Ph.D. students and 5 M.S. students in the program.

You met with Sally on February 25, 2008 to discuss your Category I, and based on notes in our graduate program review database, the outcome of that meeting was that you were scheduled for a graduate council review in spring or fall 2009.

Although no reviews were conducted in 2009, a Category I proposal was approved for termination of the Ph.D. in Comparative Veterinary Medicine in July 2010. The review of the Veterinary Science M.S. was scheduled for winter 2011. At this time you are requesting another delay to complete the planning related to the reorganization HHS, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine and to decide how the M.S. fits into that reorganization.

Clearly it is time for action with respect to your M.S. degree.

Possible options:

(1) Based on the facts that the M.S. program is in a state of flux and has not been reviewed in 14 years (soon to be 15 years) and your question to me over the phone “Why bring in a team of external reviewers to tell us OSU should have closed down this program years ago?” leads me to believe that the College of Veterinary Medicine should suspend admissions to the program until the three colleges in your division decide how the M.S. in Veterinary Science will be folded into a new degree program.

(2) The Graduate School could grant you a one term delay, with the review being held in spring 2011. I fear that because reviews are based on the history of the program not on
plans for the future, the recommendation of the review panel would be no different from that if the review were held in winter term 2011 - that is the M.S. should be suspended or terminated.

(3) You could take your case to postpone the review until fall term 2011 to the Graduate Council. (Again the review is based on the history of the program and a one-term delay will not significantly change 15 years of history.) The Council's response could be to grant the postponement but requiring a category I proposal in Fall term, but it could also be to suspend admissions to the M.S. in Veterinary Science. Last year the entomology graduate program was in a situation similar to yours and the Council voted to terminate the degree program and recommended suspension of further admissions until final action on program termination and development of new degrees took place. The program was asked to develop an action plan in response to this recommendation. The action plan was forwarded to the Provost for his review. He concurred that admissions to that graduate program should be suspended until further action by the College of Agriculture redefined the program.

(4) Your redefined program would require a Category I proposal defining the new degree with its new requirements, new curriculum, new name, and new graduate faculty. You suggested on the phone that you would like to hold a review so that external reviewers could comment on your proposed reorganization. This is certainly your prerogative and bringing leaders of Veterinary Science programs to campus to consult about your reorganization could be very productive. Unless there is a program review, however, the Graduate Council and Graduate School would not be involved in this process. This review would not substitute for a Graduate Council review, so you would still be faced with options 1, 2, or 3, above.

I think the best path at this time take option (1). Your faculty will still be able to advise students in the other graduate programs.

Yours,

Marty

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