Task Force on Graduate Education: Selective Excellence

Program Ratings and Rationale

Program: Pathology M.S. Program
Rating: High Quality

This is a unique, very small program leading to a research-based MS. A total of 4 MS students were enrolled in fall 2008. The program offers students opportunity to further their scientific careers without committing to a PhD program. However, a number of the students (60% since 1999 and 80% since 2005) have gone on to advanced degree programs. Enrolled students primarily come from regional Midwest colleges/universities. Admittedly, underrepresented diversity is poor. On average, two new students are admitted/enrolled per year. It takes about 2 1/2 to 3 yrs to complete the program which has a low attrition rate. Students receive full financial support packages. The faculty numbers have increased over the past 5 years due to aggressive recruiting. 10 new faculty were hired as tenure track faculty. In the future as these new faculty develop research programs, the Pathology department would like to add a PhD degree option for the program. Although adding an organ-systems based biomedical graduate degree on campus is an area of increasing importance in translational medicine training, the Task Force is not sure expansion to a PhD program is justified as it may overlap with existing PhD programs.