

## **FUTURE ACTION ITEM #1**

### **Establish a Master's of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology Degree (Elizabeth S. Chilton)**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

**SUBJECT:** Establishment of a Master's of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology degree for the WSU Pullman campus

**PROPOSED:** That the Board of Regents establish a Master's of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology degree for the WSU Pullman campus

**SUBMITTED BY:** Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION:** The College of Veterinary Medicine and Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology proposes the establishment of the Master's of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology degree for the WSU Pullman campus.

The WSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology have offered combined training in veterinary anatomic pathology and immunology/infectious disease research for over 40 years.

Students in this program complete their doctoral research and pathology training in 6-7 years and become eligible for board certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. It is one of the largest and most successful programs that trains veterinary pathologists for leadership positions in academia, in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and in government institutions.

Although our graduates continue to be highly successful, the breadth and depth of knowledge needed to become a clinical specialist and accomplished researcher can no longer be delivered effectively in the traditional combined training format. This problem is projected to worsen in the next five years when the American College of Veterinary Pathologists implements its residency certification program and expands the number of clinical competencies required for board certification.

Lastly and most importantly, our students are increasingly suffering from anxiety and other mental health challenges due to the stress caused by trying to simultaneously meet the growing demands of residency and research training.

As such, the challenges described above associated with the current combined program will be addressed by adopting a sequential training model where incoming students spend the first three years focused on veterinary anatomic pathology training in a professionally oriented master's degree program offered through the Graduate School. After completing residency training, students interested in research can transition into a Ph.D. program within the College of Veterinary Medicine to complete their graduate training.

This proposal was reviewed carefully and has support from the Provost's Office. This recommendation was recommended by the Faculty Senate on March 21, 2024. The Master's of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology degree proposal is available upon request.

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology proposes the establishment of the Master's of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology degree effective as soon as feasible.