

## **ACTION ITEM #13**

### **Establishing Tuition Rate for the University of Nairobi Joint PhD, Biomedical Sciences Program (Leslie Brunelli/Chris Jones/Dori Borjesson/Tom Kawula)**

March 7, 2025

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

**SUBJECT:** Establishing Tuition Rate for the University of Nairobi Joint PhD Biomedical Sciences

**PROPOSED:** That the WSU Board of Regents approve the tuition rate for the Joint PhD Biomedical Sciences Degree in partnership with the University of Nairobi.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Leslie Brunelli, Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration/CFO

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION:** State law authorizes the governing boards of the four-year higher education institutions to establish tuition rates. Tuition rates for all student categories except resident undergraduates may increase or decrease without limit.

The WSU Faculty Senate approved an extension of the PhD program in Biomedical Sciences to the University of Nairobi (UofN) campus. This collaboration between Washington State University (WSU) and UofN allows students training with WSU faculty to obtain a joint doctoral program from each university. The primary goal of this program is to establish a new research training structure for doctoral students in low-resources countries that does not require the students to relocate to the United States. This mitigates “brain drain”, which occurs when international students who attend U.S. universities ultimately immigrate to the U.S., which takes human capital from low resources countries. Program goals include expanding the impact of WSU faculty training and advancing the land grant mission of WSU.

It is being requested that this program establish a nominal differential tuition rate instead of charging the current graduate tuition rate of \$14,338.50/semester. Like most countries, Kenya considers waived tuition as taxable income and that would impact student enrollment into this program. It is also requested that student fees (currently \$596.88 per

semester in Pullman) not be charged given that students are not at a physical WSU location and would not benefit from any of the services and facilities covered by student fees. This proposal will neither result in a net loss nor gain of institutional resources. The College of Veterinary Medicine will cover any associated costs, particularly if extramural funding is not secured. WSU Faculty, engaged in funded research activities, are already providing training to the student cohorts.

Please see the table below for the proposed annual rate:

Tuition Rates	Current	Proposed	Change	%Change
PhD Biomedical Sciences	\$0	\$50	N/A	N/A

The proposed changes will be finalized for consideration at the March 2025 Board of Regents meeting. If approved, the tuition structure will then be communicated to all prospective students and faculty members involved in the program.

More information supporting these tuition increases can be found here:  
<https://budget.wsu.edu/documents/2024/12/nairobi-tuition-supporting-docs.pdf>