

INFORMATION ITEM #3

Items Approved by the President Under Delegated Authority
Degree Extension
(T. Chris Riley-Tillman)

Degree Extension

- ***Extension of the Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences degree to the University of Nairobi***
Led by the College of Veterinary Medicine, the degree extension of the Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences to the University of Nairobi will establish a new research training structure for doctoral students in low-resource countries that does not require the students to relocate to the United States. With this format, excellent student candidates who lack the capability to move to the US can receive the world-class research training provided by WSU faculty. This program is also intended to mitigate the “brain drain,” where international students who attend US universities ultimately immigrate to the US, which actively defeats the goal of improving the education and technical workforce skills in low-resource countries. Additionally, the goals and format of this program enhance and expand the impact of our faculty in training the next generation of biomedical scientists while also advancing the land-grant mission of Washington State University.

Currently, five (5) full-time WSU faculty are based in Kenya and actively engaged in global health research. Awarding the Ph.D. from WSU through the joint degree program will provide official recognition that the student received training by WSU faculty and completed the WSU Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences requirements with the rigor and scholarship expectations associated with our institution. The joint degree also provides official recognition for our institution as an innovative global university and for our faculty involved in training master’s and doctoral students at internationally based institutions.

The degree extension was passed by the Faculty Senate on November 14, 2024. The proposal submitted to President Schulz for consideration is available upon request.