

EDUCATIONAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Report on Concerns Raised Re: LCOM, MMG and Undergraduate Offerings

March 15, 2018

The Educational Stewardship Committee (ESC) investigated several interrelated concerns with the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM):

- 1) MMG 201. In Spring 2017 concerns raised by Profs. Robert Haldal, Stephanie Phelps, and Susan Wallace to the effect that related budget cuts adforced the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics to TJ 0.002 Tc -0.002 Tw [(c)11.2 (u)2 (r)8.9 (r)-2 (i)-2.6 (c)11.2 (u)12.9 (l)-2.6

This concern was sparked by the advent of new listings of new special courses which is based in LCOM. There was concern that the content of the special courses in existing courses. The ESC is aware of a general budget model, LCOM enjoys an unfair advantage because LCOM can access undergraduate student academic units cannot derive revenues from

Provost's Office (Kerry Castano), the College of

became markedly reduced, but this was independent of IBBMMG Department had to make choices about all of its offerings in order to maintain a balanced budget, and consequently a decision was made to offer MMG 201 in alternate fall semesters only. Adjustments to balance the Department's budget would have been necessary regardless of the change in the University's budget model.

At the meeting of 11/28/17 Dan Morin reported that he had decided to underwrite the costs of MMG 201 so that it could continue to be offered every fall. This action will resolve the concerns about adverse impacts on MMG and Biochemistry undergraduate majors.

High Quality, High Cost Laboratory Courses

The investigation of MMG 201 concerns has called attention to the broader issue of support for high quality, high cost laboratory courses such as MMG 201. Considering the federal definition of a credit hour, the credit allocation for such lab courses is typically low for the amount of work expected of students. Consequently, the revenue stream is also low, so lab courses are potentially at risk under the incentive-based budgeting model (used by the

ESC). Increasing the credit allocation for labs was suggested as a potential solution, but that does not seem feasible since the credits would have to be taken from other courses. At this time there is no obvious solution. The ESC urges the academic units to consider what is best for students' education when making decisions about valuable high cost labs and experiential learning courses.

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with other institutions of higher education in *collaboration* with the undergraduate enterprise. LCOM can provide faculty expertise in certain areas and student research opportunities through its graduate and research programs. The unique opportunities are possible because UVM is one of the few universities in the nation with an academic health center on campus. The ESC agrees the academic units should capitalize on valuable collaborations with LCOM when appropriate

Dean Morin stated that LCOM does want to increase its curricular offerings, but the thrust will be at the postbaccalaureate and graduate level, not undergraduate. This has and will continue to include certificates of graduate study, master and doctoral degree programs. This planned growth of graduate programs is consistent with the University's strategic plans.

Summary of Outcomes and Recommendations

MMG201