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MEMORANDUM

To: Peter J. Deckers, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and
Dean, School of Medicine

From: Bruce M. Koeppen, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, Dean's Council

Date: December 14, 2006

Re: Department of Pharmacology

At its December 6, 2006 meeting, the Dean's Council reviewed and discussed the report of the *ad hoc* team that reviewed the Department of Pharmacology, and the response of Dr. Sha'afi to the report. In addition, Drs. Barbarese, Sha'afi and Renfro (via telephone) joined the committee to discuss the report and the implications of the various recommendations put forth.

The Dean's Council believes it is imperative that the School ensure there are adequate numbers of faculty with the required expertise to teach appropriate principles related to pharmacology to the medical and dental students. While the teaching of pharmacology in the curriculum has traditionally been the role of faculty in the Department of Pharmacology, in recent years, faculty from other departments (e.g., Medicine) have contributed to this mission. The members of the Department of Pharmacology believe the teaching of pharmacology is best accomplished through either a department, or some other administrative unit, such as a Division of Pharmacology within a department. However, as in the case of other core basic science disciplines (e.g., anatomy, physiology, microbiology), the Dean's Council believes maintaining the integrity of pharmacology teaching can be accomplished without a department, or other administrative unit.

The Dean's Council also believes that, by its nature, pharmacology-related research does and should easily integrate with a number of other disciplines (e.g., genetics, vascular biology, cell biology, neuroscience). Indeed, current research with the Department of Pharmacology is already integrated with other research programs in the institution.

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The Dean's Council agrees with the review team that maintaining the Department of Pharmacology at its current state is unacceptable, and not in the best interest of the school. However, the Dean's Council believes investing significant additional resources into the current department is neither feasible, nor warranted at this time. In addition, since the nature of pharmacology-related research naturally links to other disciplines, revitalizing the department and maintaining its current structure would not be consistent with the institutional goal of supporting and facilitating interdisciplinary research.

Therefore, it is the unanimous recommendation of the Dean's Council that: (1) the Department of Pharmacology be disbanded, and that the current faculty members within the department each transfer his/her academic appointment to another department (and center as appropriate) that will allow his/her specific research program to flourish and grow; (2) the school look both within as well as outside the institution to identify faculty with appropriate expertise to teach pharmacology to medical and dental students; and (3) the school make a conscious effort, when recruiting new faculty in any department or center, to hire individuals whose qualifications would enable them to contribute to the teaching of pharmacology.

BMK/m