

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
January 20, 2011**

SUBJECT: Ph.D. in Biochemistry (CIP 26.0210) at Florida International University

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider for Approval the Request to Implement a Ph.D. in Biochemistry (CIP 26.0210) at Florida International University

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7(c), Florida Constitution
Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida International University (FIU) is proposing to offer a Ph.D. Degree in Biochemistry. It will be a coordinated program, run jointly by three units at the University: the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, the Department of Biological Sciences, and the Wertheim College of Medicine. This collaboration is expected to enhance the program's ability to attract competitive federal funding for biomedical research and sustain a vigorous and focused Ph.D. program. It is anticipated that graduates will be positioned to obtain employment in academia and industry, especially in areas where biomedical technology is developed or employed.

The proposal provides evidence that faculty and other resources already exist to implement the proposed Ph.D. in Biochemistry, and costs will be shared across the three units which will partner to offer the program. Dr. Kelsey R. Downum, Professor and Sr. Associate Vice President for Research at the University of Texas at Arlington, was retained by FIU as an external consultant to review the proposal and rated the overall quality of the proposed degree program as exceptional. The proposal was reviewed by Academic and Student Affairs Committee on November 4, 2010 and approved for consideration by the full Board of Governors. If approved, FIU plans to implement the Ph.D. in Biochemistry in Fall 2011.

Supporting Documentation Included: Staff analysis and full proposal were included in the November 2010 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting materials:
http://www.flbog.org/pressroom/meeting_items.php?id=107&agenda=401