

TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A DOCTORATE IN INTEGRATIVE SYSTEMS BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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I. SUMMARY

This consent item recommends approval for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (UCDAMC) to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) in Integrative and Systems Biology.

II. BACKGROUND

The following is summarized from UCDAMC's proposal:

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and the Graduate School of the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus propose a new Ph.D. program in Integrative and Systems Biology beginning in AY 2012-2013. This program will be housed primarily in the Department of Integrative Biology and involves faculty from several departments in CLAS, as well as faculty from the Schools of Medicine and Public Health at Anschutz Medical Campus. Additional advisors and committee members will be drawn from the Museum of Nature and Science and from the Denver Botanic Gardens. The degree program will offer a Ph.D. degree in two broadly based tracks: Integrative Biology and Systems Biology. These tracks are interwoven within the program and highly complementary approaches to understanding the broader questions in modern biology.

ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT

This degree supports the role and mission of UCDAMC. The statutory mission states:

The Denver campus of the university of Colorado shall be an urban comprehensive undergraduate and graduate research university with selective admission standards. The Denver campus shall offer baccalaureate, master's, and a limited number of doctoral degree programs, emphasizing those that serve the needs of the Denver metropolitan area. The Denver campus has statewide authority to offer graduate programs in public administration and exclusive authority in architecture and planning. C.R.S. 23-20-101(b)

EVIDENCE OF NEED

The program proposes to recruit from internal and national pools and anticipates 5-7 applications for each available position. A survey of students in multiple levels of the

Integrative Biology program at CU Denver demonstrated interest from 93 students if offered.

The growth in Colorado's biotech industry suggests that there will be ample positions for graduates interested in this career path. Nationally, a survey of positions advertised in Science magazine's on-line job database indicated over 700 positions which graduates of the program might apply, located in biotech, pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, government, academia and other sectors.

DUPLICATION

The proposed Ph.D. program is unique in the state of Colorado. While it incorporates some elements of Ph.D. programs at CU Boulder and Anschutz Medical Campus, it stands alone in its use of broad approaches to study some of the larger problems in modern biology. Further, the inclusion of both integrative and systems approaches to these problems in a single program further differentiates it from all other programs in the state.

III. STAFF ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129 (6)(b), department staff finds that UCDAMC's proposed Integrative and Systems Biology Ph.D. degree is consistent with the statutory role and mission.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus proposal to offer a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Integrative Systems Biology.

V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs office and are available upon request.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

C.R.S. §23-5-129

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education:

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.