

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
December 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Doctor of Physical Therapy at Florida A & M University

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider for Approval the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) at Florida A & M University, CIP Code 51.2308

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution
Board of Governors Regulation 8.011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida A & M University is requesting authorization to convert its physical therapy program to the doctoral level. The DPT will replace the MPT currently accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE). The change in degree level is driven by the need to remain competitive in student recruitment and also to be prepared when CAPTE begins to require doctoral level programs for accreditation. The curriculum would be 103 credit hours, which compares favorably with programs previously implemented at Florida universities and also programs implemented in other states. The University has seven core faculty members to initiate the DPT program, but would need to add 2-3 core faculty to complete the transition from the MPT. All facilities, special equipment, and other resources are in place. If approved for implementation, the first DPT class will be enrolled in Fall 2008.

Observations and relevant page numbers in staff analysis:

- More than 80 percent of the physical therapy programs nationwide have made the conversion to the DPT. (page 2)
- Employment of physical therapists is expected to increase 27 percent or more through 2014. (page 6)
- With the exception of FAMU and FGCU, all existing physical therapy programs within the State University System have converted to the DPT (UF, USF, FIU, UCF, and UNF). (pages 2 and 7)
- Converting to the DPT is expected to improve efficiency and increase revenue. (page 8)
- The program would generate more fundable credit hours per student headcount than most other graduate-level programs, but FAMU might not see any increase because enrollment is below the funded level for 2007-2008. (page 8)

- FAMU is the only HBCU in Florida with a physical therapy program, and the only university offering the program in Northwest Florida. (page 7)
- In addition to meeting its commitment to the educational needs of African-Americans and other ethnic minorities, FAMU could be expected to provide regional access with regard to programs that are not offered by other universities in Northwest Florida, and this should be reflected in their diversity plan. (page 8)

Supporting Documentation Included: Provided with Committee Materials

Facilitators/Presenters: Richard Stevens, Director of Academic and Student Affairs