

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA  
March 29, 2007**

**SUBJECT:** Doctor of Physical Therapy at Florida International University

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider for Approval the Doctor of Physical Therapy at Florida International University  
Classification of Instructional Program Code 51.2308

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Section 7(d), Article IX, Florida Constitution

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapist Education (CAPTE) and American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) support the elevation of physical therapy degree programs to doctoral level. CAPTE estimates that by 2008, 90% of all physical therapy programs will be offering the Doctor of Physical Therapy. This degree program will prepare students in a profession where growth is projected to be "much faster than average" by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. The program adds 24 credit hours to Florida International University's existing Master of Science in Physical Therapy, preparing graduates to provide safe, effective and cost efficient care to a broad spectrum of clients.

The proposed program is consistent with the 2005-2013 SUS strategic goal of creating access to and production of degrees in an area that meets documented statewide professional and workforce needs in the health professions. Doctors of Physical Therapy have been implemented within the SUS at the University of South Florida and the University of Florida. Because the proposed program elevates an existing degree program, new funding costs are low and facilities are already in place. Eight full-time faculty will be associated with the new program. If approved, the student recruitment process will begin immediately with a proposed implementation date of fall 2007.

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**Documentation Included:** None

**Facilitators/Presenters:** Vice Chancellor LeMon  
Richard Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs  
Florida International University Representatives