

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
November 16, 2006

SUBJECT: Ph.D in Computational Science, Florida State University

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Authorization of a proposed Ph.D. in Computational Science at Florida State University,
CIP Code 30.0801

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Section 7(d), Art. IX, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Computational Science combines aspects of computational mathematics, computer science, and computational statistics as well as application areas in science and engineering. The proposed program is interdisciplinary in nature and will have the major track of Computational Science as well as specialization areas in Atmospheric Science, Biochemistry, Biological Science, Geological Sciences, Materials Science, and Physics. Dr. John N. Shadid with the Sandia National Laboratories was retained as a consultant to review the degree proposal and commented that the "program and the associated curriculum is very responsive to the current needs of major research institutions engaged in computational science research and employing computational methods in science and engineering. ... students out of this program will do very well in industrial and government research institutions." Two of the 19 faculty members associated with the program hold the prestigious Francis Eppes Professorship and another holds an Eminent Scholar Chair in High Performance Computing.

The Ph.D. in Computational Science supports the Board of Governors, State University System of Florida 2005-2013 Strategic Plan goal to increase degree production and research efforts in targeted disciplines, specifically emerging technologies. In anticipation of the program, Florida State University has allocated resources to the School of Computational Science (SCS) over a period of years, so no resources will need to be reallocated from other academic units to implement the new degree program. If approved, the recruitment process will begin immediately and it is intended that the first degree will be conferred in the 2011-12 academic year.

Supporting Documentation Included: New Degree Program Approval Staff Analysis

Facilitators/Presenters: R.E. LeMon, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs,
Richard P. Stevens, Director, Academic and Student Affairs,
FSU Representatives