

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

**SUBJECT: Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering, Florida International University**

**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Authorization of a proposed Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering  
at Florida International University, CIP Code 14.1801.

**AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering will prepare graduates for industrial and academic research in five areas of specialization: electronic materials, nanotechnology, metals and alloys, ceramics, and polymer science and biomaterials. Planning for the program has been a combined effort between faculty from Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Geology, and Physics. The current faculty are all active in research and teaching in materials science related disciplines and have received numerous awards. Over 80 inquiries have been received regarding the availability of a doctoral program in this area. Facilities and resources needed to implement the program are currently in place. A master's level program has been implemented and currently, the College provides 8 teaching assistantships to materials science and engineering M.S. students.

The Ph.D. is aligned with the Board of Governor's Strategic Plan goal related to access and production of degrees. This particular area has also been identified as a targeted program area in the 2005-2013 SUS Strategic Plan. The university had anticipated enrolling their first cohort of students in Fall 2006, however, that date will be revised based on approval of the degree program by the Board of Governors.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** New Degree Program Approval Staff Analysis

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