

## FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

October 22, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Implementation Authorization for a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering at Florida International University

---

### **PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Consider implementation authorization for a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering (CIP 14.0501) at Florida International University.

### **AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION**

Article IX, Section 7 (d), Constitution of the State of Florida

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The program is listed in the 1998-2003 Master Plan, supports the University's plan for increasing offerings in health-related disciplines, and will provide a foundation for further development of health-related and medical programs at FIU. This doctorate will prepare graduates for industrial or academic research in one or more of five areas of specialization: (1) biomechanics, biomaterials, and medical devices; (2) bioinstrumentation and biomedical image processing; (3) drug delivery and tissue engineering; (4) medical physics and nuclear medicine; and (5) bio-nanotechnology.

This is the third biomedical engineering Ph.D. program in the State University System. Other programs are offered by the University of Florida and the joint Florida State / Florida A&M University Colleges of Engineering.

Dr. Thomas Skalak, Professor of Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia, was retained as a consultant to review the written proposal. His report stated that this was an outstanding proposal that would attract large numbers of highly-qualified students, and that the program had the potential to increase the positive impact of FIU upon the already substantial South Florida biomedical engineering business sector. The FIU Board of Trustees approved the proposal at its May 19, 2003 meeting. If approved, the University plans to implement the program in fall 2004

---

**Supporting Documentation Included:** Staff Analysis

**Facilitators / Presenters:** Chancellor Austin / R. E. LeMon

FIU Representatives