

FLORIDA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

July 23, 2003

SUBJECT: Implementation Authorization for a Ph.D. in Integrative Biology at Florida Atlantic University

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve implementation authorization for a Ph.D. in Integrative Biology (CIP 26.0101) at Florida Atlantic University.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Florida Atlantic University has presented convincing evidence of a need for a doctorate in Integrative Biology. Projections by the National Science Foundation indicate that life sciences occupations are expected to increase by 33,00 new jobs. Letters of support for the proposed program from the business sector and from the U.S. Department of Interior also provide a strong indication of the need at the local and regional level for this program. A study commissioned by the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County (FAU's service area), suggests that the region is at a distinct disadvantage in meeting recruiting needs of the high-tech sectors and that South Florida's share of the state biological Ph.D. production should therefore increase.

Increased enrollment in FAU's MS in Biological Sciences, the University's recent and strongly supported emphasis in biomedical science, and the number of students currently enrolled, indicate that there is a demand for further graduate education and, thus, an immediate pool of applicants for the proposed doctorate.

Dr. David Hinton, Nicholas Professor of Environmental Quality at Duke University, was retained as a consultant to review the proposal and submitted a favorable report. He stated that the Integrative Biology focus addresses serious concerns and specific regional issues such as restoration of the Everglades, integrity of marine and terrestrial environments, an aging human population, and the need for a highly skilled workforce.

The FAU Board of Trustees approved the proposal for the Ph.D. in Integrative Biology at its March 21, 2003, meeting. If approved, the University plans to implement the program in August 2003.

Supporting Documentation Included:

Staff Analysis

Facilitators / Presenters:

Chancellor Austin / R. E. LeMon