FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

TO: President John Thrasher

FROM: Provost Sally McRorie

DATE: December 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Neuroscience Degree Limited Access

Request for Approval

To promote student success and retention in the new undergraduate degree in Neuroscience, the faculty director, with the support of the academic departments (Psychology and Biological Science) and the College of Arts & Sciences, has requested that the program be granted Limited Access status, effective Fall Term, 2018. Neuroscience is a rigorous multi-disciplinary STEM degree that requires extensive prerequisite coursework in math and the sciences. In addition, most graduates from the bachelor's program will apply to graduate school, and undergraduate grade point average is a strong determinant of success in graduate admission.

Thus, access will be limited by allowing admission only to those who have completed the necessary prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher and who have an overall GPA of 2.8. An identical limited-access policy has been in effect for ten years in the Department of Psychology without impacting its efforts to recruit and retain qualified minority students. (From 2012 to 2015, approximately 8% of Psychology graduates were African-American and 20% were Hispanic, compared to overall graduation rates of 9% and 14%, respectively.)

Following Board of Trustees approval, notice of this action will be forwarded to the Board of Governors for their final review and approval.

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THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Thrasher
President

FROM: Ed Burr
Chairman

DATE: January 19, 2018

SUBJECT: Items Approved by the Board of Trustees, January 19, 2018

The Florida State University Board of Trustees approved the following on January 19, 2018:

- September 22, 2017, Meeting Minutes
- The Proposed new University Regulation FSU-5.099 Development, Approval, Termination, and Suspension of Degree Programs
- The Proposed repeal of University Regulation FSU-5.095 Instructional Systems Development Center
- The Proposed repeal of University Regulation FSU-6.006 Florida State University Imprimatur
- The Proposal to Implement Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience
- The Proposal to Implement Master of Arts in East Asian Languages and Cultures
- The Proposal to Implement Master of Science in Systems Engineering
- The Proposal to Implement Master of Science in Law Enforcement Intelligence
- The Proposal to Explore Bachelor of Science in Financial Planning and Services
- The Professional Communication Degree Limited Access
- The Retail Merchandising and Product Development Degree Limited Access
- The Neuroscience Degree Limited Access
- The Campus Master Plan Minor Amendment
- FSU Regulation 3.003
- Election of Vice Chairman of the FSU Board of Trustees as Trustee Mark Hillis
- FSU Board of Trustees Committee Assignments

JT/lbs

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Board of Governors, State University System of Florida
Request Form: Limited Access Status for an Academic Program
In Accordance with BOG Regulations
6.001 - General Admissions and 8.013 - Limited Access

University:	Florida State University	**Degree(s) offered:**	B.S.
Program:	Neuroscience	**Six digit CIP code:**	26.1501

1. Will the entire program be limited access or only a specific track?

   The entire program will be limited access.

2. If only one track is limited access, please specify the name of the track

   _____

3. Please specify:

   The total number of new students anticipated to enroll in the program each academic year.

   A total number of 90-100 new students (FTIC and FCS transfers) are anticipated to enroll each year.

   The total number of students anticipated to enroll in the program each academic year.

   This is a new degree program. Annual enrollment is anticipated to be 97 students in Year 1, 122 in Year 2, 60 in Year 3, 102 in Year 4, and 69 in Year 5.

4. When do you propose to initiate limited access? (please specify the effective term and year)

   In Year 1, Academic Year 2018-19, when the program opens for enrollment.

5. What is the justification for limiting access?

   The justification is two-fold.

   Firstly, the proposed degree (B.S. in Neuroscience) is a rigorous multi-disciplinary STEM degree that requires prerequisite coursework in Biology, Psychology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Statistics. To be successful in the upper-division Neuroscience coursework – where the structure and function of the brain will be covered in significant detail – students must demonstrate a reasonable mastery of the topics covered in the prerequisite material. By establishing a minimum GPA to enter the program, we certify that students will be able to successfully complete the upper-division coursework.

   Secondly, we expect most students enrolling in the program to eventually apply to graduate or professional degree programs, where undergraduate GPA is a primary

consideration for admission. For Neuroscience-related careers, an undergraduate GPA above 3.0 is needed to be competitive for admission to a graduate or professional degree program. By establishing a minimum GPA to enter the program, we certify that students will have the opportunity to earn a competitive GPA for admission to a graduate or professional degree program of their choosing.

6. By what means will access be limited? Please provide a description of the program's admissions requirements and procedures. Additionally, please indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for Florida College System Associate of Arts degree graduates in competing for available space in the program.

Certification and progression to upper-division status will require a minimum GPA of 2.8 over all courses attempted, with all prerequisite coursework completed with a grade of C or higher. These minimum standards will not disadvantage Florida College System (FCS) transfers – all prerequisite coursework is available in the FCS and both populations of students (FSU and FCS) will be held to the same minimum standard for certification and progression to upper-division status.

7. Present the current race and gender profiles of the students in the program. Discuss the impact of the proposed action on the race and gender profiles and cite sources used to inform the discussion. What strategies, should they be necessary, will be used to promote diversity in the program?

Because the program has not yet opened for enrollment, data on current race and gender profiles are not available. However, an identical limited-access policy (2.8 GPA minimum) has been in place in the FSU Psychology Department for the last 10 years without a negative impact on race and gender profiles. For example, averaging Florida SUS data across a recent 4-year period (2012-2015), 77% of undergraduate students receiving degrees from the FSU Psychology Department were female. This percentage compares favorably against the average percentage of female students receiving degrees from FSU across the same 4-year period (56%).

Averaging across the same 2012-2015 period, 8% and 20% of graduates the FSU Psychology Department were Black and Hispanic, respectively. These graduation percentages align with the overall percentage of Black and Hispanic students receiving degrees from FSU during 2012-2015 (9% and 14%, respectively). Thus, the limited-access policy used by the Department of Psychology, which is identical to that proposed for the new program, results in graduation rates that generally match overall FSU graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students.

However, to foster participation by underrepresented students, the proposed program will apply for federal funding to support for undergraduate students who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences (National Institutes of Health MARC-USTAR T34). Efforts to achieve a diverse student body will also include campus outreach to several FSU RSOs – for example, the Hispanic/Latino Student Union, the Oscar Arias Sanchez Hispanic Honor Society, Puerto Rican Student Association, the Black Student Union, the W.E.B. Du Bois Honor Society, Dream, and the Black Law Students Association, College Student Division. NUSA, the RSO for Neuroscience at FSU, already has an established, diverse membership and NUSA officers state that they are eager to assist in outreach to other RSOs on campus.

8. Are the graduates of the program in high demand? If so, and if the program is to be limited due to lack of adequate resources, provide a justification for limiting access to the program rather than reallocating resources from programs with low market demand.

The multi-disciplinary breadth of the proposed Neuroscience degree will prepare students for a wide variety of STEM-related careers as technicians, researchers, educators, or health and human-centered professionals. While understanding human brain function (in health and disease) has long been of central importance to physicians, psychologists, researchers, and educators, the knowledge accruing from this effort is beginning to impact bioethics, computer science, and biomedical engineering. Importantly, brain science is also playing a new and emerging role in traditionally non-STEM professions such as law and economics.

Due to this breadth of market demand, some of which is only just beginning to emerge, graduates of the program will be in high demand in some or all areas of the Neuroscience-related marketplace. However, the request to limit access to the program is not due to a lack of adequate resources. The Neuroscience-related marketplace is highly skilled and competitive. The minimum 2.8 GPA to progress to upper-division status is meant to certify that students will be able to complete the degree requirements successfully, and have the opportunity to earn a competitive GPA for admission to a graduate or professional degree program of their choosing.

Request Initiated by:	
EEO Officer's Signature:	
Provost's Signature:	
University Board of Trustees Approval Date (please include a copy of the UBOT agenda with this form)	Jan. 19, 2018

Send the completed form to:

Dr. Jan M. Ignash
Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs
Board of Governors
State University System of Florida
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1950