

Approved by the Regents
June 21, 2007

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

SUBJECT: Program in Biophysics

ACTIONS REQUESTED: Transfer Reporting Line to the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Rename the Biophysics Research Division, and Authorize the Program in Biophysics to be a Tenure Home

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

The College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, with the endorsement of the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), requests approval to transfer the reporting line of the Biophysics Research Division (BRD) from OVPR to the College, to rename BRD as the Program in Biophysics, and to allow the Program in Biophysics to recommend faculty for tenured appointments and to serve as a tenure home.

BRD has been a successful interdisciplinary research and graduate program at the University of Michigan with a distinguished history that goes back to the 1930s. It bridges three colleges and schools, and has produced students who are distinguished faculty at numerous first tier institutions as well as faculty who have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. For 20 years, BRD has served as home to one of the first Molecular Biophysics Training Grants from the National Institutes of Health. Importantly for the program, the faculty have been involved in considerable teaching, including the doctoral program offering graduate level courses and hands-on experience in laboratories with cutting-edge interdisciplinary research. The majority of the core faculty have their academic appointment in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and have a demonstrated track record in undergraduate teaching.


The present organization of programs within the College was developed to foster interdisciplinary study rather than to follow the traditional departmental approach to a particular discipline. Interdisciplinary studies have attained distinction at the University, in great measure, because these programs have taken the lead in developing innovative, high quality scholarship that transcends traditional departmental boundaries.

The right to serve as a tenure home is essential to a program's ability to attract a strong and diverse faculty and student body; develop visionary, long-range plans; offer an enriched and coherent curriculum; and utilize its resources most effectively.

The executive committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts has approved the recommendation that the Program in Biophysics be established and appointed as a tenure home. We therefore request that the Regents approve this change in reporting line and approve the Program in Biostatistics as a unit that can appoint tenured faculty and serve as a tenure home, effective July 1, 2007.

Recommended by:

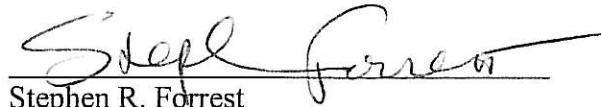
Recommendation endorsed by:



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



Teresa A. Sullivan, Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



Stephen R. Forrest
Office for the Vice President for Research

June 2007