

January 7-8, 2009

ITEM 142-1002-R0109

Approval to create a Biochemistry Program and a BS in Biochemistry degree and to change the name of the graduate program in “Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics” to “Biochemistry and Biophysics”

THAT:

In accordance with Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes The University of Montana to create a joint Biochemistry Program between the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and the Division of Biological Sciences. The program will administer all aspects of the discipline of biochemistry at The University of Montana, including the new BS in Biochemistry and the graduate program in Biochemistry and Biophysics.

EXPLANATION:

The Biochemistry Program will integrate the efforts and expertise of faculty in two College of Arts and Science departments, the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and Integrative Microbiology & Biochemistry from the Division of Biological Sciences, to create a focal point for the discipline of biochemistry at The University of Montana. At present, biochemistry offerings in the College of Arts and Science are provided through three separate units, the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, the Division of Biological Sciences and the graduate program in Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics creating a diffuse presence for biochemistry at The University of Montana. The Biochemistry Program will bring together these programs under a single administrative umbrella, it will create and develop the first BS in Biochemistry degree in the state of Montana, and it will administer the Biochemistry & Biophysics graduate program. The expected outcomes include an enhanced ability to compete nationally for students in the vibrant and growing field of biochemistry, stronger and more creative pedagogy in biochemistry at both the undergraduate and graduate level, enhanced research activity and thus increased grant volume and the ability to attract and retain top-quality faculty in this discipline.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendices A, B, C, D