

Submitted by: Margaret E. Winters, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETICS MASTER OF SCIENCE AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the proposal to change the name of the M.S. and Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG) to Molecular Genetics and Genomics (MGG), effective Fall 2015.

Background

In 1986, educational programs in MBG were positioned to be on the cutting edge of the exciting and rapidly expanding new field known as molecular biology. Now, almost 30 years later, graduate education in this field has changed dramatically and is no longer focused on techniques but rather on using these techniques to provide a thorough analysis of biological systems, including the ability to understand and treat human diseases.

We propose to change the name of the Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG) program to become Molecular Genetics and Genomics. (MGG), reflecting the new direction that this field has taken since the turn of the century. The change will include an expanded emphasis on human genetics and genomics, computational biology, and biostatistics.

Current students in both the M.S. and Ph.D. programs will continue to follow their plans of work and will not be affected by the proposed curriculum changes. Current students, however, would be permitted to take any of the proposed new courses. If the change in the name of the program is approved, current students will receive their degree under the new name of Molecular Genetics and Genomics.

Approvals

The proposal for the name change and curriculum revision was approved by the faculty senate, the director of the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, the Associate Dean of School of Medicine, the Graduate Council, and the Dean of the Graduate School.