

ASACR 2

Office of the President
January 31, 2014

Members, Board of Trustees:

MERGER OF EDUCATIONAL UNITS: COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the merger of the Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology and the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences into the Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences, in the College of Medicine, effective immediately.

Background: The Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology and the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences (GCNS) are basic science departments in the College of Medicine. The GCNS currently operates both as a department with primary appointees, and as a center with members appointed to the graduate faculty for education and training of master's and doctoral students in nutritional sciences. Each unit operates an independent graduate program in nutritional sciences or pharmacology, and contributes to the educational and service missions of the College. The units have faculty with commonalities in training, scientific and educational expertise; and research programs that integrate pharmacology and nutritional approaches to improve human health. The rationale for the merger: (1) education, to effectively use the skills and expertise of existing faculty within these units toward graduate, professional and undergraduate education; (2) research, to consolidate emerging research strengths in obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases into one unit; and (3) resources, to develop a streamlined, efficient administrative structure for long-term operation of graduate programs and department operations.

The merger will positively impact all constituents, including faculty, staff and students. The merged unit will more effectively utilize the talents and skills of individual faculty and strengthen the ability to compete for training grants and center applications. It also will allow the realignment of staff to assure that all operations are provided sufficient levels of support and encourage new avenues for graduate student training that capitalize upon unique emerging areas of pharmacology and nutritional sciences.

The proposal has been approved by the faculty in the Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology, the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences and the College of Medicine Faculty Council; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and endorsed by the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____