

ASACR 5

Office of the President
June 19, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Neuroscience in the Department of Biology, in the College of Arts and Sciences, beginning in the Fall 2015 Semester.

Background: The Bachelor of Science degree program in Neuroscience will be unique given the diverse and multidisciplinary nature of the course offerings and collaborating faculty. Departments offering relevant coursework in Neuroscience span five Colleges: Arts and Sciences, Medicine, Agriculture, Pharmacy, and Engineering. The proposed degree program is the first bachelor's degree program to unify these diverse approaches to the study of Neuroscience into a single curriculum.

Neuroscience is a field of study that is expanding at a national and international level due to many factors including the rapid development of innovative technological approaches that allow for levels of analyses of the nervous system never before imagined. There is growing recognition of the critical role that even single cells have in influencing normal and pathological nervous system function and the increasing prevalence of neurodegenerative disease, traumatic brain injury, and substance abuse, for example. The Federal government's recent "Brain Initiative", announced in 2013, is projected to provide more than \$3 billion in research funding to the field of neuroscience over the next 10 years.

Students in this program will develop critical thinking, communication, and independent study skills with broad, multidisciplinary training in basic and applied scientific aspects of Neuroscience. Students also will have the opportunity to receive extensive training in applied aspects of Neuroscience including such topics as central nervous system injury, drug addiction, aging, and delivery of therapeutic agents using nanotechnologies.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the 45 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____