

## **IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form**

**Documents Reviewed:** Addition of a new track for the Master in Science in ACB.

### **Summary of Proposal:**

To attract and accommodate students who want to pursue a PhD in the biomedical sciences, the MS in Anatomy and Cell Biology requests the addition of a new "Research" track to its "Traditional" track. This new track will require less traditional course work with the understanding that the students will complete a laboratory research project and write a thesis. Required course work differs for the two tracks.

#### **1. Are the goals clear and achievable?**

Yes

#### **2. Is the program academically sound?**

The new track requires 15 hours of traditional course work (class time) instead of the 20 hours currently listed for the traditional track. Up to 15 hours of research time are available. A minimum number of research hours should be mandated that is well above the 6 hours currently available in the traditional track in order to complete a thesis.

D860 (research) should be a requirement and not just an elective for students in the new track.

#### **3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit?**

The availability of qualified faculty willing to take on students for a thesis project requiring laboratory research is not addressed.

#### **4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?**

Not to my knowledge.

#### **5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...**

Since the two tracks require completely different course work, how will the program address the needs of students who want to switch to the other track after a semester or two? Will they have to start all over again?

The research track states a “thesis is **normally** required”. Why the qualifier? Under what circumstances would a student not complete a thesis?

How many students are anticipated to enter the new track? Admission numbers should be based on available faculty mentors (see above).