

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Biology PhD proposal (pgs 1-318)

Summary of Proposal:

The proposal is focused on changing the current Biology PhD program from being credited to Purdue-West Lafayette (P-WL) to Purdue-Indianapolis. The current P-WL curriculum will essentially be preserved as is with a few minor changes. The changes proposed include: increasing the number of advisory committee meetings from 1 to 2 meetings per year, increasing the number of accepted students when appropriate space becomes available upon opening of new building (2013), addition of a few new courses as faculty and student interests fluctuate

Positives of the proposed program include: maintaining the extensive research focus, maintaining the flexible core curriculum, which allows for customizing course work for the varied disciplines engaged by the doctoral students, using the current pool of undergraduates, and MS candidates as sources of doctoral candidates (these students represent both Indiana residents as well as non-residents and international students). These elements will all contribute to a strong program that is likely to continue to provide students' who will help increase the departments ability to attract external funding and to continue to train students that will provide a well-qualified workforce to the growing life sciences industries in Indiana.

1. Are the goals clear and achievable? Yes

2. Is the program academically sound? Yes

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit? It appears that appropriate resources are already in place and there will be an increase in space when the new building opens in 2013 allowing the program to grow.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program? The proposed program will replace the current PhD affiliated with the West Lafayette campus, which the IU campus has been implementing for the last 18-20 years so I do not perceive that there is overlap. Implementation of this program change would now allow the IU campus to receive the credit for overseeing and executing of the current program. Few changes to the current program are proposed and those that are actually enhance the program. I don't see any real or potential overlap with other doctoral programs in the school of science.

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

I strongly support the proposal. The proposal has many positives and no appreciable negatives. It mainly involves transferring the credit for training Purdue Biology doctoral candidates to the Indianapolis campus, which is clearly a reasonable and justified request. The proposal is well justified and the department has a well documented and solid record of capable of training doctoral students in the Biological sciences.