

Review #1: PhD in Chemistry

It is my pleasure to comment on the proposal for the stand alone, site directed and controlled Ph.D. program in Chemistry at IUPUI. This is an easy task and one that I am a little more familiar with than most external evaluators as a result of having been on the faculty at Purdue University (1985-1990). I am also quite familiar with many of your Organic Chemistry faculty. Since this is, in essence, a program that has been underway since 1986 and that has been quite successful - it is long overdue that this Ph.D. program be given its complete independence. The curriculum is appropriate and adaptable to the individual students, and the requirements for fulfilling a Ph.D. are rigorous (albeit and like Purdue University extend too long into the graduate students career). The Organic Chemistry faculty (the only faculty I feel qualified to comment on) are superb, well qualified to direct this program independently and they will definitely benefit from this increased independence. In addition, IUPUI has also evolved as a University campus to the level of benefiting from and now requiring this autonomy. Personally, I think could have and perhaps should have occurred many years ago. I do think this places the Chemistry faculty in a position where IUPUI will need to place a new level of expectations on all that includes full participation in both the undergraduate and graduate programs and efforts to move IUPUI Chemistry from a local or regional program to one that competes on the national and international level. With the competition for external funds as fierce as it is, it is only the very best in any field, including Chemistry, which can compete. But, like the Ph.D. program itself, this is a feature of the program that you can continue to cultivate over the years to come.