



Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#04-69



RESOLUTION
 concerning
 LICENSURE AND ACCREDITATION
 of a program in
 BIOCHEMISTRY
 leading to a
 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE
 at
 CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
 December 10, 2004

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System approves Central Connecticut State University's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science degree program in Biochemistry, and be it further

RESOLVED, That under the authority granted to the Board of Trustees for Connecticut State University System in Chapter 185b, Section 10a-87 and 10a-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System is authorized to seek licensure and accreditation for this program from the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education.

A Certified True Copy:

Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman

ITEM

Licensure and Accreditation of a Bachelor of Science degree program in Biochemistry at Central Connecticut State University.

BACKGROUND

In May, 2004, the President of Central Connecticut State University, with advisement from the Faculty Senate, created a new Department of Biomolecular Sciences in the School of Technology to facilitate the development of new programs and strengthen existing offerings to better serve the needs of the university's students and the State's economy. This is the second program to come from this department. The goal of the Chemistry and Biomolecular Science departments at CCSU is to meet the challenge to respond to the growing demand for trained scientists in the chemical, biological and biochemical industries in the state; the need for higher education in the overlap area of chemistry and biology is particularly acute. Program completers will be well positioned to enter the chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries, as well as continued graduate and professional education.

ANALYSIS

This program represents a logical combination of chemistry and biomolecular science courses to create an interdisciplinary curriculum to replace a specialty area in Biological Chemistry. This 'hybrid' program would fill a gap in the current array of offerings and would draw new students, as current programs do not provide the breadth necessary for this degree. Articulation will be developed with designated community college programs to ease transfer. CCSU's Biotechnology Institute, established by the Board in 2003, will support teaching, research and professional development initiatives. Institute board members, many of whom are CCSU Alumni working in the industry, also will provide advisement to the faculty regarding curricular and research needs.

The program curriculum meets or exceeds standards established by the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and contains foundation courses and directed electives; for assessment of learning outcomes, the program integrates two research credits (in lieu of an external internship), two capstone courses and a student portfolio, requiring at least five interviews with faculty to review progress.

At the present time, faculty, facilities, laboratories, classrooms, and equipment currently utilized by the existing programs in Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences will effectively serve the needs of the program. Library holdings are also adequate to meet program needs. As the program grows, additional resources may be required.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the proposal from Central Connecticut State University to offer a Bachelor of Science degree program in Biochemistry.