Graduate Council Meeting Agenda

October 3, 2019

1. Courses
   a. MSCI 601: Contemporary Topics in Advanced Cell Biology I
   b. PHEB 621: Foundations of Maternal and Child Health
   c. RPTS 614: Research Methods in Tourism, Hospitality, Park and Event Management
   d. SCSC 628: Soil Mineralogy Lab
   e. WFSC 631: Ecological Applications in R

2. Programs
   a. CERT-MACH: Maternal and Child Health - Certificate
   b. DEN-ENGR: Doctor of Engineering in Engineering
   c. MS-HRMT: Master of Science in Human Resource Management

3. Special Consideration Items
   a. Biochemistry and Biophysics GRE Waiver
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MEMORANDUM

To: Graduate Admissions

THROUGH: Graduate Council

THROUGH: Dr. Karen Butler-Purry
Associate Provost, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies

THROUGH: Dr. A. Joshua Wand
Professor & Head
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

FROM: Dr. Tatyana I. Igumenova
Associate Professor
Chair of Graduate Admissions Committee
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

SUBJECT: Waiver of GRE requirement for applicants to the Biochemistry and Biophysics graduate program

The Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics would like to eliminate the GRE requirement for the admission to the graduate programs in Biochemistry and Biophysics. This request applies to the PhD and Master’s programs. The Graduate Admissions Committee voted unanimously to support this request.

It has become clear over the last several years that GRE scores are not predictive of future success in graduate school. Specifically, a recently published study concluded that GRE scores are poor predictors of time to degree or students’ overall success in completion of their PhD programs [Sandra L. Petersen, Evelyn S. Erenrich, Dovev L. Levine, Jim Vigoreaux, and Krista Gile. Multi-institutional study of GRE scores as predictors of STEM PhD degree completion: GRE gets a low mark. PLOS ONE, https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0206570]. In addition, taking the GRE represents a significant cost barrier for applicants from disadvantaged economic backgrounds, many of whom belong to groups under-represented in biological and chemical sciences. Several of our aspiration peer programs that have already dropped the GRE requirement are seeing significant increases in the number of applicants. Therefore, waiving the GRE requirement will enable the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics to successfully compete with peer institutions for qualified applicants and increase the diversity within the applicant pool.