

**Committee on Planning & Budget**

February 10, 2017

To: Dylan Rodriguez  
Chair, Riverside Division Academic Senate

Fr: Christian Shelton   
Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget

Re: Campus Review of Proposal for an Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Biophysics

On January 31, 2017, the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed and discussed the proposal for an Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Biophysics. CPB was in overall support of the proposal by a vote of +9-0-0, but offers the following comments for consideration:

- The proposed course schedule should be reviewed to make sure it adheres to current course requirements with Graduate Division that allow hiring of teaching assistants, such as 301s and 302s courses.  
(Proposal pg. 11, Section 7. Graduate Student Support)
- Will the biophysics PhD students be in lieu of or in addition to PhD students in the established programs of the participating faculty? If the former, then how do existing departments' programs view the implicit PhD reduction? If the latter, then how will faculty in biophysics be able to increase their total number of mentored graduate students without additional faculty lines?
- How will the TA support for biophysics PhD students be allocated and administered? The TAs will be teaching existing courses and be across two colleges. The departments' and college's roles in providing support should be clarified, especially as this relates to current commitments to students and programs.