TO BE ADOPTED:

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate approves the proposal for M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in an Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology as described in the attached documents received in the Graduate Division in March, 1998.

JUSTIFICATION

The graduate programs in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology will be conducted by cooperating faculty in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Cell, molecular, and developmental biology have emerged in the past two decades at the forefront of the biological sciences. The interface between these disciplines has become an increasingly productive arena for new discoveries and significant advances, and a contemporary graduate program should encompass each of these areas. The goal of the proposed graduate program is to provide coherent training for students in the fields of cell, molecular, and developmental biology by uniting in a single degree granting program the expertise of faculty currently dispersed in numerous biological sciences departments and graduate programs. The proposed program will be distinctive because it will offer students a balanced exposure to microbial, plant, and animal systems. Because the research interests of the faculty in the proposed program span areas from reproduction in mammals to control of gene expression in flowering plants, from mechanisms of channel gating in neurons to host-parasite interactions in plant and animal systems, students will gain an understanding of and an appreciation for both the unifying themes and unique features that characterize the behavior of molecules, cells, and developmental pathways in a variety of organisms. Moreover, because faculty from both basic and applied (medical and agricultural) departments will participate in this program, students will become fully cognizant of the range of opportunities available in these fields. Students graduating from the proposed program will have received excellent training and should be competitive for research, teaching, and related scientific careers.

The proposal has been examined and approved by the following committees of the Academic Senate: Graduate Council, Planning and Budget, Educational Policy, and Library. The proposal has the approval of the Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural sciences.

Supporting Documents are available for review in the Academic Senate Office.