

MEMORANDUM

TO: *X* President Edward T. Foote II

FROM: *X* Dr. John Knoblock *JK*  
Chairman, Faculty Senate

DATE: October 2, 1987

SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Legislation # 87010 (B) -  
Name Change for the Department of Biochemistry

*Approved  
JK  
10/2/87*

The Faculty Senate, at its meeting of September 28, voted to approve Faculty Senate Legislation #87010(B) - Name Change for the Department of Biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

*10/9*  
*Done.*

JK/b

cc: Provost Luis Glaser

*J*



**Faculty Senate Action, 87010  
Class B Legislation**

The Faculty Senate approves the change of the name of Department of Biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #87010(B) -  
Name Change for the Department of Biochemistry

RESPONSE BY THE PRESIDENT:

DATE: 10/9/87

APPROVED: Yes. SDF

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT OR PUBLISH: Provost

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 28, 1987

### *Call to Order and Approval of Minutes*

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Dr. Knoblock. The minutes of the meetings of April 13, April 20 and June 17 were unanimously approved as submitted. Excused absences were approved for Drs. Caralis, Hayes, Posnak and Zollo.

### *Presentation of Founder's Plaque and Past Chairman's Plaque*

As a continuation of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration, Dr. Knoblock presented a Founder's Plaque and a Past Chairman's Plaque to Dr. Herman Meyer in recognition of his distinguished service and many contributions to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Meyer thanked the Senate for the plaques and related some of the history of organizing the Senate.

### *Name Change for the Department of Biochemistry*

Dr. William Whelan, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, presented the proposal to change the name of the Department of Biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. This motion came to the Senate as a recommendation from the Senate Council. *The motion was unanimously approved.*

### *Division of the Department of Management Science and Computer Information Systems*

Dr. Jack Borsting, Dean of the School of Business Administration, presented the proposal to divide the Department of Management Science and Computer Information Systems into two separate departments. Dean Borsting answered questions regarding the staffing of the second department, chairman's stipend, and the gains to be realized by splitting the department. Dean Borsting emphasized that the Ph.D. concentration in Management Science would be joint. This motion came to the Senate as a recommendation from the Senate Council. *The motion was unanimously approved.*

### *Marketing Concentration in Ph.D. in Business*

Dr. Knoblock informed the Senate that the Senate Council had approved the Marketing concentration in the Ph.D. in Business.

### *Proposed Institute for Coastal Studies*

Dr. Garrett Brass, Council member from RSMAS, presented the proposal for the establishment of an Institute for Coastal Studies in the Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and moved the acceptance of the name of the Institute. *The motion was unanimously approved.*

Dr. Knoblock requested that the Senate move into Executive Session, restricted to members of the faculty, to discuss confidential matters.

## SENATE COUNCIL MEETING

September 14, 1987

**PRESENT:** George Alexandrakis, Anthony Allegro, William Awad, Garrett Brass, Basil Honikman, John Knoblock, Chairman, Theona McQueen, Linda Neider, Donald Randolph, Susan Seiler, Frederick Tims, and Kamal Yacoub.

**GUESTS:** Jack Borsting, Eugene Clasby, George Gilpin, Diana Lopez, and William Whelan.

### Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 P.M. by Dr. Knoblock. An excused absence was approved for Dr. Swan. The minutes of the August 31 meeting were approved as submitted.

### Proposed Name Change for the Department of Biochemistry

Dr. William Whelan, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, presented the rationale for the proposed name change. It was *moved* by Dr. Brass, seconded by Dr. Neider, to recommend approval of the name change to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The *motion was unanimously approved*.

### Split of the Department of Management Science and Computer Information Systems

Dr. Jack Borsting, Dean of the School of Business, presented the proposal for splitting the Department of Management Science and Computer Information Systems. It was *moved* by Dr. Neider, seconded by Dr. Yacoub, to recommend approval of the split of the Department of Management Science and Computer Information Systems into two separate departments. The *motion carried*.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mrs. Barbara Hoadley  
Secretary, Faculty Senate

FROM: Nancy L. Noble, Ph.D. *N. Noble per xp*  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

RE: Supporting documentation for  
name change of Biochemistry

DATE: July 27, 1987

Enclosed are the documents provided by Dr. W. J. Whelan, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, to support the departmental name change to Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

It had been intended that these materials accompany the enclosed 07/02/87 memorandum sent to Dr. John Knoblock requesting consideration of this change. However, the material was just been received.

Please forward these documents to the Faculty Senate Council for review for the August 18, 1987 meeting agenda item on the name change.

Thank you.

Encl.  
NLN:xp

cc: Dr. B. J. Fogel  
Dr. W. J. Whelan  
Biochemistry file  
Sch. Council file  
NLN files  
Files xp



Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs  
Room 2017A Sewell Building (D 2-6)  
PO. Box 016960, Miami, Florida 33101  
Location: 1475 N.W. 12th Avenue  
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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. John Knoblock  
Chairman, Faculty Senate  
325 Ashe Building

FROM: Nancy L. Noble, Ph.D. *Nancy Noble*  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

RE: Name change, Department of Biochemistry

DATE: July 2, 1987

The Executive Advisory Committee of the Faculty of the School of Medicine, the School Faculty Council and the Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine have approved the departmental proposal to change the name of the Department of Biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

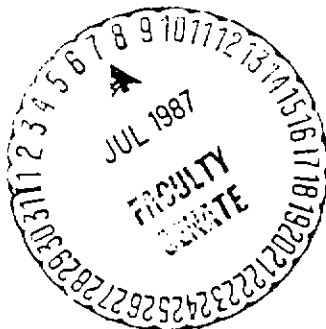
Documents supporting the proposed change are enclosed. Dr. William J. Whelan, departmental chairman, or his designee will be available on your request to meet with the Senate Council at its 08/31/87 meeting for discussion of the proposal.

If you have questions or need additional information, please call me.

Thank you.

Encl.  
NLN:xp

cc: Dr. B. J. Fogel  
Dr. W. J. Whelan  
Dept. of Bioch. file  
Departmental name change file  
Files xp



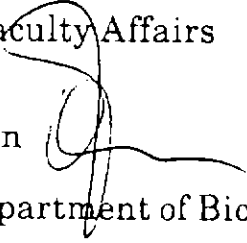
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. John H. Knoblock  
Chairman, Faculty Senate  
325 Ashe Building

VIA: Dr. Nancy L. Noble  
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs  
School of Medicine

FROM: Dr. William J. Whelan 

SUBJECT: Name Change, Department of Biochemistry

The Department of Biochemistry requests of the Faculty Senate that the name of the Department be changed to that of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. As noted in Dr. Noble's memorandum of July 2, the proposal already has the approval of the Executive Advisory Committee of the Faculty of the School of Medicine, the School Faculty Council and the Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine.

A rationale for the name change is attached. I understand that this request will be on the agenda when the Faculty Senate Council meets on August 31. In my absence, Dr. J. David Puett, Professor of Biochemistry, will attend that meeting to represent the Department. I myself will be available for attendance at the Faculty Senate meeting on September 28.

WJW:sb

cc: Dr. B.J. Fogel  
Dr. L. Glaser  
Dr. J.D. Puett

Enclosure





**Proposal to Change the Name of  
The Department of Biochemistry  
to  
The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

The primary faculty of the Department of Biochemistry in a unanimous vote, and with the support of its secondary faculty, including Provost Glaser, requests the Faculty Senate to approve a change of name of the Department by adding the words "and Molecular Biology" to the existing name. The proposal already has the approval of the Executive Advisory Committee of the Faculty of the School of Medicine, the School Faculty Council and the Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine. We provide the following rationale.

**Historical Background.** 'Molecular biology' is a term that in the 1950's and 60's described the study of macromolecular structure, in the 1970's became identified with the 'new biology' of molecular genetics, and in the 1980's has come to embrace both pursuits since they have the common goal of determining and describing the structure and function of macromolecules.

**Recent Name Changes.** It is an increasing trend for University Departments of Biochemistry to add 'and Molecular Biology' to their name, to signify that the techniques of molecular biology are based on biochemical principles as well as thereby announcing that their educational, training and research programs include molecular biology. It is, however, by no means automatic, nor should it be, that all Departments of Biochemistry will undergo such a name change. In some institutions molecular biology expertise will develop in other ways. In Miami it is fairly and squarely rooted in the Department of Biochemistry.

We have to say that the proposal for this change, which we have thought about for a least a decade, was precipitated by the recent change of name of the American biochemists' professional organization (with the blessing of its federated sister societies in experimental biology) from the American Society of Biological Chemists to that of the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

This follows on changes made in recent years in biochemistry departments at other prestigious institutions where "Biochemistry and Molecular Biology" is now the appellation, e.g. Harvard, Chicago, Northwestern, Cincinnati and - close to home - the University of Florida at Gainesville. The last-named is the only University department in the four Florida research universities to carry the description 'Molecular Biology' in its title. The need for the UM, which has a much older and equally significant stake in this area, to advertize the fact by according this name recognition to its own Department of Biochemistry, is self-evident.

**The Faculty:** Since 1974 the Department of Biochemistry has consistently and deliberately followed the policy of appointing to its primary tenure-track faculty only biochemists who could also be described as molecular biologists. These appointees are:

Keith Brew (1974):	Professor of Biochemistry
Walter Scott (1975):	Professor of Biochemistry
Roger Fenna (1979):	Associate Professor of Biochemistry
Richard Voellmy (1982):	Professor of Biochemistry
David Puett (1983):	Professor of Biochemistry and Director of the REPSCEND Labs
Coralie Carothers-Carraway(1984):	Associate Professor of Biochemistry

All the above are federally funded investigators and four of them have held or currently hold the prestigious Research Career Development Award of the NIH. There are currently three faculty vacancies in the Department which have been advertized as positions for molecular biologists and where active recruitment is in progress. In addition, when clinical departments recruit molecular biologists it is to our Department that they turn for joint appointments for their recruits. This group of faculty, with others already in service, has been assembled in order to cover all aspects of modern molecular biology.

Indeed, in the important area of protein structure determination, the Department of Biochemistry's X-ray diffraction laboratory, headed by Roger Fenna, is not only unique to the UM. There is no other such laboratory in Florida and therefore no comparable research or training activity available in Florida except in our Department.

A vigorous program of research activities, funded by \$2.4 M annually of mostly federal grants is centered largely on molecular biology and provides a stimulating training environment for graduate and postdoctoral students.

**Education: Ph.D. Programs.** The Department of Biochemistry offers the core course in molecular biology (Biochemistry of the Gene) that is mandatory in the interdepartmental program in Cellular and Molecular Biology. This program was revived in 1978 in a successful interdepartmental application for an NIH training grant in which the Department of Biochemistry provided the molecular biology training component. The previous grant had lapsed in 1970.

In 1978 it was the Department of Biochemistry that provided the molecular biology training component when, along with the Departments of Pharmacology and Physiology & Biophysics, an NIH training grant for the Cellular and Molecular Biology program was obtained, following the lapse of the previous grant in 1970.

**M.D. Program.** The Department of Biochemistry, together with the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, teaches the cellular and molecular biology component of the 4-year M.D. program.

**The Miami Bio/Technology Winter Symposium.** Where some of our molecular biology expertise is unique to Florida, the annual Miami Bio/Technology Winter Symposium is unique in the nation, and indeed on the international scene. Now about to celebrate its 20th anniversary, the Symposium was recently described by Nature magazine as "the premier annual gathering aimed at advances in gene technology". Indeed, the Symposium has recently taken a major new direction by entering into an experimental partnership with Nature and its Bio/Technology magazine to stage conferences on protein engineering in 1988 and neurobiology in 1989.

This prestigious symposium series began in 1969 as a joint venture with the Papanicolaou Institute, presenting themes drawn from classical biochemistry topics. Beginning in 1977 the continuing symposium theme was dedicated to molecular biology and five of its keynote speakers (the Lynen Lecturers) since then have subsequently won the Nobel Prize. Others, like Watson and Crick, came to Miami already so endowed.

This event is a unique training experience in molecular biology for graduate students, postdoctoral trainees and faculty alike. It is a required course in some School of Medicine programs, for example, the newly instituted postdoctoral program in virology, oncogenes and growth factors. We can document that the presence here of this Symposium, now wholly organized by the Department of Biochemistry, is regarded by peer review groups as a most positive asset to the University's intellectual and training environment.

## Conclusion

In its faculty, in its educational and training programs, in its research endeavors and in the Miami Bio/Technology Winter Symposium, the Department of Biochemistry has developed all-round expertise and international recognition as a Department of Molecular Biology. The proposed name change is therefore appropriate, deserved and overdue.

In terms of name overlap, the only other use of 'molecular biology' in the University is in the Ph.D. program in Cellular and Molecular Biology of which this Department was a founder member 25 years ago. We see no cause for concern or confusion in the use of 'molecular biology' also in the name of our Department, since the precedent of the use of 'Cell Biology' both in the name of that program and in the name of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology is already there and causes no evident confusion.

It is very important for the UM that there should be an outward and visible sign of the importance that we attach to research and education in molecular biology and that we should become its standard bearer, in tune with the times and not content to leave this to be the prerogative of the University of Florida.

Submitted by W.J. Whelan,  
Chairman, Department of  
Biochemistry

July 30, 1987