



MEMORANDUM

TO: President Edward T. Foote II
FROM: Steven Green
Chair, Faculty Senate
DATE: January 7, 1999
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Legislation #98001(B) –
Approval of the Name for the “Center for Supramolecular Science”

The Faculty Senate, at its meeting on September 28, 1998, voted to approve the name for the “Center for Supramolecular Science”.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

11/13
Stare, J
Approve. Rankin,
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SG/b

cc: Provost Luis Glaser
Dean Kumble Subbaswamy, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor Roger Leblanc, Department of Chemistry

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #98001(B) – Approval of the Name for the “Center for Supramolecular Science”

RESPONSE BY THE PRESIDENT: Approve DATE: 1/13/99

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: _____

APPROVED: [Signature]

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: _____

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

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98001



College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Chemistry

MEMORANDUM

To: K.R. Subbaswamy, Dean
From: Roger M. Leblanc, Chair *RML*
Date: September 3, 1998
Subject: Center for Supramolecular Science

The faculty have just taken a vote in favor of promoting a Center for Supramolecular Science. Enclosed is a proposal outlining the pertinence of such a center. If this is acceptable to you, would you please present this at the next College Council meeting? Thank you.

RML:ras

CENTER FOR SUPRAMOLECULAR SCIENCE

A PROPOSAL BY:

THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Roger Leblanc, Chair
Department of Chemistry

Background and Purpose

Academic chemistry departments have existed traditionally as cottage industries, with individual scientists working on independent research problems. However, as scientific problems become more global and instrumentation more specialized, individual scholars and their students working alone are frequently at a disadvantage, especially for problems requiring interdisciplinary solutions. The current trend in chemistry departments is to identify important areas of research and to focus efforts in faculty hiring, instrumentation, and grant proposals. The most cost effective way to do this is to build on strengths that already exist within the department. When several scholars within a department have overlapping interests it is often desirable to create a "center" in order to enhance visibility of the research area.

During the past decade, a focus in supramolecular science has developed among several faculty members within the Department of Chemistry and also with various collaborators in other departments in the University. Supramolecular science is a unified effort using concepts of biology, chemistry and physics to unravel the mysteries of organized condensed matter in physical and biological phenomena. The subject is multidisciplinary, not only within chemistry (e.g. organic, inorganic, and physical), but across scientific disciplines, including biochemistry, biology, medicine, physics, and materials science. Collaborations resulting in joint publications involving supramolecular entities currently exist between several professors within and outside the chemistry department. Some of these are:

Collaborations within the Department

- : Echegoyen and Leblanc (Fullerene Films)
- Gawley and Leblanc (Biosensors)
- Kaifer, Evanseck, and Criss (Molecular Receptors)
- Leblanc and Russell (Two-dimensional H-bonding)

Collaborations with faculty in other University departments

- Gawley and Baden (Marine Biology and Fisheries) (Marine Neurotoxins)
- Echegoyen and Cohn (Physics) (Materials Science)
- Leblanc and Taylor (Dermatology) (Skin Biophysics)

The purpose of the current proposal is to form a center sponsored by the chemistry department which will give visibility to the department's research efforts in the area of supramolecular science and enhance the probability of attracting quality students and external research funding to the Department.

Proposal

Conditions for the formation of a center for the study of supramolecular assemblies already exist within the Department of Chemistry. Only a name and organizational structure is missing. The faculty of the chemistry department has

approved the establishment of the **Center for Supramolecular Science** (herein referred to as the **Center**). The **Center** will consist of a Scientific Director and an Advisory Committee consisting of three members selected from the **Center**. The director will be appointed by the Chair of the Department of Chemistry. Members of the Advisory Committee will be selected by other members of the **Center**. The **Center** will not offer a degree program. Funds for research projects carried out under the auspices of the **Center** will come from research grants. Any member of the Department of Chemistry who feels that his or her research contributions fits under the description of supramolecular science may be a member of the **Center**, with majority approval of the Advising Committee. Members of other departments in the University who are collaborating with member scholars in the Chemistry Department may also be members of the **Center**.

Objectives

The major objective of the **Center** is to enhance the visibility of a focused area of ongoing interdisciplinary research in the Department of Chemistry and with members of other schools in the University, such as the Medical School and the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. The **Center** will lend credibility to joint proposals submitted by the Department for research funding and major instruments. The increased visibility will enhance our ability to attract quality students to the University. Finally, the **Center** will provide a forum for the discussion of scientific issues of common interest to those working in the area of supramolecular science.

The University of Miami is unique since the current strength is in physical supramolecular chemistry, although one of our goals in faculty hiring in the Department is to broaden the scope of the **Center** to include scholars interested in organic synthesis. The University of Miami is also unique in that it has schools of both medicine and marine science, whereas other universities have one or the other, but not both. Thus opportunities for further multidisciplinary collaborations are amply abundant.

Summary

The **Center for Supramolecular Science** will increase the visibility of research efforts on the nature of supramolecular assemblies at the University of Miami. As a consequence, it should enhance the opportunities to attract quality students to the University and to attract research funding for interdisciplinary projects and major research instruments.