




EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

July 25, 2008

To: Members of the Task Force on the Biological and Life Sciences

From: Joseph A. Alutto 
Executive Vice President and Provost

Ré: Charge to the Task Force on Biological and Life Sciences
at The Ohio State University

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on this critical leadership committee to help define the University's optimal approach for graduate and research programs in the biological and life sciences. Patrick S. Osmer, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School, and Joan Leitzel, Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost Designate of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, will co-chair the task force.

Enclosed are a copy of the charge, dated July 25, 2008, and a roster of the task force's membership. I am deeply appreciative of your engagement and advice and look forward to working with you.

Enclosures

Charge to the Task Force on Life Sciences at Ohio State
July 25, 2008

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a Task Force on Life Sciences at Ohio State. The charge of the task force is to:

- Identifying how Ohio State's graduate level education, especially at the doctoral level, and research in the biological and life sciences should be optimally configured.
- Recommend appropriate organizational processes and arrangements to support high-quality doctoral educational and research efforts. The task force will look at overarching research themes, existing strengths, and opportunities for Ohio State.

To do so, the task force will:

- Create an inventory of existing research efforts that also identifies existing strengths and opportunities for Ohio State in the biological and life sciences.
- Invite broad and active participation from faculty and graduate students through working groups.

The activities of the Task Force on Life Sciences stem from clear faculty interests and the results of the Doctoral Program Assessment and Plan carried out by the Graduate School (April 2008), as well as the recommendations contained within the external review of the interdisciplinary graduate programs conducted in 2004. The observations and recommendations compiled in the concurrent reviews of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences (April 2008) and of the Budget System (June 2008) provide further indication of the special opportunities now in front of Ohio State.

The need for this effort is the highest priority finding for Ohio State to emerge from the doctoral program assessment process, which revealed critical issues about the organization and administration of the doctoral and research efforts in the biological and life sciences across the university. These issues must be addressed for Ohio State to achieve the enormous potential it has to be a world leader in these fields. This is a tremendous opportunity for Ohio State and a defining moment for its faculty, researchers, and graduate students in these areas.

Task Force on Life Sciences
Roster – July 25, 2008

Co-Chairs:

- Patrick Osmer, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School
- Joan Leitzel, Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences

Member:

- Mark Bennett, Professor, Department of Horticulture & Crop Science
- Kathleen Boris-Lawrie, Professor, Department of Veterinary Biosciences
- David Denlinger, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Entomology
- Jeff Firkins, Professor, Department of Animal Sciences
- Michael Ibba, Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology
- Bobby Moser, Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Dean of the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences
- Karin Musier-Forsyth, Ohio Eminent Scholar, Professor, Department of Chemistry
- Randy Nelson, Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Professor, Departments of Psychology and Neuroscience
- Matt Platz, Interim Dean, College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and College of Biological Sciences
- Amanda Simcox, Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics
- Larry Schlesinger, Professor and Director, Division of Infectious Diseases
- Chip Souba, Vice President and Executive Dean for Health Sciences and Dean of the College of Medicine
- Carol Whitacre, Senior Vice President, Office of Research

(Note: Vice Provost Randy Smith, will act as the Office of Academic Affairs's liaison to the task force because of his work and responsibilities with the Council on Academic Affairs and program reviews, both of which will be important to task force activities.)