**Guidelines for Establishing a Bioscience Program**

**Research Emphasis Area**

The guiding principle of the Research Emphasis Area program is to demonstrate to prospective graduate students the breadth of research excellence that the Bioscience Program and the U of U campus has to offer. These Research Emphasis Areas will replace our outdated track system and is expected to facilitate recruitment of a broader base of graduate student applicants that span the diverse range of research program needs on our campus. It is also anticipated that these Research Emphasis Area will serve current Bioscience Program students and faculty, by creating unique opportunities for training, project and grant development, and interdepartmental collaboration. To this end, we have instituted several guidelines to be met by faculty interested in establishing a Research Emphasis Area.

1. **Minimum number of members**. To ensure a critical mass of faculty, on the assumption that Research Emphasis Areas will both gain and lose members over the years, we require at least 10 faculty, associated with either the Molecular Biology or Biological Chemistry Program. Note that individual faculty members are welcome to join multiple Emphasis Areas. Research Emphasis Areas have the option of defining sub-specialties within their group, with individual faculty members subdivided according to research interest. Each of these sub-specialties should be defined as Research Focus Groups.
2. **Web page**. The Research Emphasis Area will be responsible for writing a description of its members’ research interests and goals, **optimized for web searching**, and providing images (research-related, as well as photographs of trainees) to post on their Research Emphasis Area web page. The web page will be developed jointly with Program Office staff, using a shared (but modifiable) template, and the Research Emphasis Area members are responsible for approving and regularly updating the page. It is recommended that the web page be updated once a year in early Summer in preparation for students applying to the Bioscience Programs in the corresponding Fall semester.
3. **Teaching**. A fundamental role of the Research Emphasis Areas in the Bioscience Program is to train and recruit incoming students. Each Research Emphasis Area is therefore responsible for providing **at least one course** suitable for first-year students, either Selective or Elective, **to be offered every year**. Temporary exceptions to this requirement may be made at the discretion of the Program Directors, particularly for newer groups still building a student cohort. Any Selective and Elective courses affiliated with the Research Emphasis Area, including semester taught, must also be included on the web page.
4. **Events**. Research Emphasis Areas are expected to regularly host (and publicize to the Bioscience community) seminars, research in progress presentations (RIPs) and/or retreats/symposia, the latter of which are a particularly important resource for students to meet and interact with their Research Emphasis Area colleagues. Research Emphasis Areas can have considerable flexibility in organizing their events, depending on the number of their faculty, but should meet at least on a quarterly basis.
5. **Research Emphasis Area leadership**. One or two faculty per Research Emphasis Area must be designated as official liaisons to the Bioscience Program Office, in charge of developing and maintaining the Research Emphasis Area web page (with assistance from Bioscience Program staff), reporting on changes to membership, and ensuring compliance with all of the above guidelines.

If an Emphasis Area does not maintain these standards – in particular, if the overall faculty membership drops below 10, the web page is not being maintained and updated, and courses are not being offered regularly – it will be removed. Emphasis Area faculty will be notified ahead of time, and may reapply at a later date.

Research Emphasis Area suggestions will be subject to Bioscience Program Director approval. The application form for establishing a Research Emphasis Area is on the next page, and should be submitted to Charlie Murtaugh ([murtaugh@genetics.utah.edu](mailto:murtaugh@genetics.utah.edu)) and Bethany Buck-Koehntop ([koehntop@chem.utah.edu](mailto:koehntop@chem.utah.edu)), MB and BC Program Directors, respectively, by **Wednesday, December 15**.

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| **Research Emphasis Area title** | |
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| **Members (please indicate who will serve as liaison(s) to Bioscience Program Office** | |
| Name | Email address |
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| **Associated courses (Selectives and/or Electives)** | |
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| **Description of Research Emphasis Area events, including interval**  **(e.g. monthly seminar series, annual symposium/retreat, etc.)** | |
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**Application for Bioscience Program Research Emphasis Areas**

**Please return form by email to: Charlie Murtaugh (**[**murtaugh@genetics.utah.edu**](mailto:murtaugh@genetics.utah.edu)**) and/or Bethany Buck-Koehntop (**[**koehntop@chem.utah.edu**](mailto:koehntop@chem.utah.edu)**)**