

Recommendation to AUs on the status of Biochemistry Programs

Recommendation from the Biochemistry Collaboration Committee

The biochemistry collaboration committee met on 10 November 2023 and continued discussions about the status of biochemistry programs throughout the college. Currently, biology houses the Biochemistry (BCHM) and Molecular Biochemistry and Biophysics (MBB) programs and Chemistry houses the Computational Chemistry and Biochemistry (CCB) program.

The committee recommends that all AUs (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) move these programs to interdisciplinary status, which under the university [interdisciplinary programs policy](#) would transfer control to a steering committee made up of representatives from various AUs, which in this case would include biology, chemistry, and physics.

The reasons articulated for this are:

- These programs are inherently interdisciplinary, having significant classwork required in biology, chemistry, and physics.
- The steering committee would facilitate communication about offering related courses in different AUs.
- There is a scholarly interest in biochemistry in these AUs, as well as in certain other AUs across campus.
- The AUs have traditionally shared resources related to this, including instrumentation for teaching and research in the biochemistry field.
- In a time of budget constraints and limited resources, having all AUs fully engaged can help the program operate smoothly and facilitate program strength and growth.
- To further develop and modernize the curriculum and make these programs sustainable.

As such, we recommend the AU faculty consider this proposal, and move this forward under the interdisciplinary framework, within the faculty governance process. That will initially require presentations of the UGSC, and then to UFC.

The proposed composition of the steering committee is:

- 2 Biology
- 2 Chemistry
- 1 Physics

NM Co-director, Biochemistry collaboration committee

DM Co-director, Biochemistry collaboration committee

AH Biology Member, Biochemistry collaboration committee

SE Chemistry Member, Biochemistry collaboration committee

JW Physics Member, Biochemistry collaboration committee