

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, BIOPHYSICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TO ROY J.
CARVER DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, BIOPHYSICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to change the name of the Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology to the Roy J. Carver Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology in the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Executive Summary: The name change will allow the University to recognize the most recent and significant financial commitment to the department by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust. In April 2012, the Trust committed \$7.5 million to the department to provide strategic funding for new initiatives in the area of biomolecular structure. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority of “educational excellence and impact” as well as Goal #7 – “Iowa’s public universities shall contribute to the expansion and diversification of the Iowa economy.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of department.** The department offers majors in biochemistry and biophysics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a major in agricultural biochemistry in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Biochemists and biophysicists seek to understand life processes in terms of chemical and physical principles. They conduct research in the frontiers of biology, such as metabolic networking; structure and function of enzymes, membranes, and hormones; computational approaches; genomic and proteomic technology; protein engineering; plant biotechnology; muscle structure and function; and the design and evaluation of drugs for the treatment of diseases. Biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology provide the basis for much of modern biotechnology.

Program graduates have opportunities in industry, especially the biotechnology sector, universities, veterinary and medical schools, and government laboratories. Students who meet the necessary high scholastic standards have the opportunity to continue their education to pursue advanced degrees in graduate school, medicine, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine.

- ◇ **Purpose of the proposed change.** The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust has made aggregate gifts and commitments of more than \$12.3 million to support the research enterprise of the Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology at Iowa State University; this represents the largest concentration of support by the Trust to any single entity at ISU. Since 1995, the Carver Trust has provided more than \$4.8 million to support biochemistry, biophysics, and molecular biology research, facilities and educational activities. The funds from the most recent gift of \$7.5 million will be used for laboratory development and start-up support for new department faculty, research-related equipment needs in core facilities, graduate and post-graduate educational and training assistance, and named faculty positions for department faculty.

In recognition of the ongoing generosity of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and its commitment to the State of Iowa, the advancement of scientific discovery, and the education of youth, Iowa State University requests that the Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology be named in honor of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust.

- ◇ Proposed name consistent with College mission. The Department of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Molecular Biology is at the forefront of life science research at ISU and includes a renowned group of emerging scientists in the field of biomolecular structure. The research and teaching organization is designed with the goals of understanding the molecular mechanisms of living systems in terms of fundamental chemical and physical principles. It has received ongoing funding from the National Institutes of Health for more than 15 years. The department offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. programs in Biochemistry and Biophysics and M.S. and Ph.D. programs in several interdisciplinary graduate programs.

The proposed name change is consistent with the primary mission of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to prepare students to become knowledgeable, contributing citizens in a world of diverse cultures. Vital to the mission of the College is the discovery of new knowledge through teaching and learning, research, and creative activity. The role of the College is to nurture and sustain the learning and understanding achieved.
- ◇ Comparable name at other institutions. It is common at peer institutions to recognize significant donors by naming departments, chairs, or facilities in their honor.
- ◇ No new resources required. The proposed department name change will not require a change to the administrative structure. Additional office space, facilities, or other resources will not be required.
- ◇ Programs not affected. The proposed department name change will not affect current programs or require program configuration changes.
- ◇ Effect on students. Funds received from the trust will be used for laboratory development and start-up support for new department faculty, research-related equipment needs in the department's core facilities, and graduate and post-graduate educational and training assistance; all these efforts will likely benefit students.
- ◇ Internal review. The proposal to rename the department in honor of the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust has met internal review protocols.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed name change will become effective upon approval by the Board or Regents.