

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: New Center to be Called the Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC), ISU
Date: May 6, 2002

Recommended Actions:

Accept Iowa State University's report of a new center to be called the Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC).

Executive Summary:

Board Policy The Board of Regents policy (*Policy Manual §6.06*) requires that the Board be informed of new centers or institutes that are financed from external sources and do not require a "major commitment of State appropriated/institutional funds in excess of \$25,000. When the external funding expires, these units are to be terminated or Board approval is needed for their continuance.


Mission The mission of the Midwest Forensics Resource Center is to develop multidisciplinary solutions for national research, training, casework and education needs in forensics science. Its objectives are to develop a portfolio of customized training for regional partners; conduct short-term, case-related forensic projects; develop a forensic curriculum for ISU and associated universities; and conduct research into new and improved forensics techniques.

External Funding This Center has been funded through the National Institute of Justice. Initial funding of \$3 million has been made available, and it is anticipated that annual funding of \$3 to \$5 million for at least the next six years will be made available. Research funding for the Center will be enhanced through external grants from both the public and private sector.

This Center will be closed upon expiration of the Justice Department funding unless other external funds are secured to continue its operation.

Regent Review
Questions

A copy of the University's responses to the Regent Review Questions on
new centers and institutes is attached (pages 3-5).



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 

Gregory S. Nichols

**Board of Regents Review Questions
for the
Midwest Forensics Resource Center**

1. What is the title of the proposed center?

Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC).

2. What is the administrative relationship of the proposed unit to other entities on campus, such as departments or colleges?

It will be administered through the Ames Laboratory as part of the Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT).

3. To whom will the administrative director of the unit report?

The director of the Ames Laboratory.

4. Succinctly describe the basic purposes and objectives of the unit.

The purpose of the Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC) is to develop multidisciplinary solutions for national research, training, casework, and education needs in forensics science.

MFRC is a partnership of state crime laboratories from eight states, four federal agencies, the Ames Laboratory, and the Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) that grew out of several IPRT and Ames Laboratory forensics research and development projects. As regional and state crime laboratories and other federal agencies learned of the forensics science work at ISU, it was concluded that the ever-growing educational and research demands of forensics science should be led and directed by an ISU-based center. By regionalizing, the MFRC partnership can better define their needs in forensics science and share resources, and thus better address critical, overlapping needs. University scientists, researchers, and faculty see this center as an opportunity to develop new methods based on cutting edge science that will contribute to the evolution of forensics science.

The objectives of MFRC are to

- develop a portfolio of customized training for regional partners;
- conduct short-term, case-related forensic projects;
- develop a forensic curriculum for ISU and associated universities; and
- conduct research into new and improved forensics techniques.

5. How will the activities of the unit relate to the general mission and teaching programs of the university?

The Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC) fulfills the university's land grant missions in research, outreach, and education. Federal, regional, state, and local agencies are seeking the university's leadership and research and teaching expertise in forensic science, and our active engagement with these external partners will meet a growing regional and national need for forensics education and research. A focus in this area will draw together, in both research and teaching, university experts from chemistry, statistics, physics, materials science, biochemistry, agricultural sciences, and veterinary medicine.

6. Do similar units exist at other public or private colleges or universities in Iowa? If so how does the proposed unit relate to them?

No similar units exist at public or private colleges or universities in the State of Iowa.

7. What are the proposed sources and annual amounts of funding for the unit? Please itemize. (Include faculty, staff, and clerical salaries; supplies; equipment; travel; other costs.)

Initial funding of \$3 million for the Midwest Forensics Resource Center (MFRC) has been provided by the Justice Department (Spring 2002). Annual funding of \$3 to 5 million for at least the next six years is anticipated. Research funding for this center will be enhanced through grants from both the public and private sectors; however, the Center's existence depends on the continuation of the federal appropriation.

Budgetary Item	Source of Funds	Annual Amount (in millions)
Personnel (salary/benefits)	National Institute of Justice; Commerce Appropriate	1.13
Materials/Supplies/Travel	National Institute of Justice; Commerce Appropriate	1.87
Equipment*	National Institute of Justice; Commerce Appropriate	0.00
Total	National Institute of Justice; Commerce Appropriate	3.00

*Department of Energy's threshold of \$25K is used to define equipment.

8. Which of the costs in Item 7 represent new financial obligations to the general fund of the university?

None.

Midwest Forensics Research Center

Endorsement Page



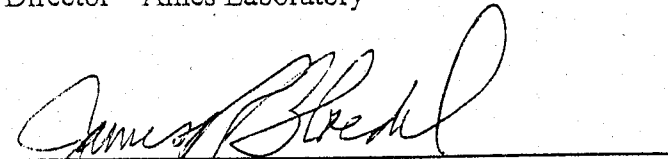
David P. Baldwin
Director Designate

4/10/02
Date



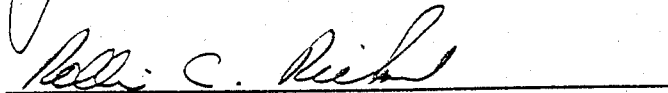
Thomas J. Barton
Director—Institute for Physical Research & Technology
Director—Ames Laboratory

4/10/02
Date



James R. Bloedel
Vice Provost for Research & Advanced Studies

4/12/02
Date



Rollin Richmond
University Provost

4/10/02
Date