

M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate
From: Kevin Evans, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs
Subject: Proposal to Establish the Center of Microbiome Science
Date: November 12, 2020

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER OF MICROBIOME SCIENCE

- Whereas the emergent field of microbiome science is intensively interdisciplinary, leverages many areas of excellence at the University, from bench science, to computing and modeling, to bedside and farmland, and today is transforming the life sciences and our understanding of the “rules of life”; and
- Whereas following seven years of cross college collaborations, with strong impacts already evident - faculty/college involvement, external grants, workshop/symposium activity, among others - the Center will build on three themes – community, compute and curriculum; and
- Whereas center status will provide global visibility, accelerate career advancement and research/training for faculty and students, and enable large-scale extramural funding opportunities in one of the most highly fundable, broadly emergent disciplines in the life sciences; and
- Whereas the proposal adheres to the guidelines for the establishment of centers/institutes, including clear mission, well defined administrative organization, and resources; and
- Whereas the proposal has the support of the Office of Research to which it will report, and strong support from other University-level centers/institutes, collaborating organizations nationally, and non-profit, private organization and government and industry partners; and
- Whereas the proposal was reviewed by a subcommittee then reviewed and approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on November 4, 2020; and

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Center of Microbiome Science.