

**Florida Atlantic University
Chemistry and Biochemistry Department
Program Review
March 9 & 10, 2015**

Review Team:

**Mary Barkley, Case Western Reserve University
Robert Potter, University of South Florida
Patricia Liehr, Florida Atlantic University**

OVERVIEW

The team of Dr. Mary Barkley, Dr. Robert Potter, and Dr. Patricia Liehr Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry on March 9 and 10, 2015. Dr. Gregg Fields, Chair of the Department, provided the team with the self-study that the team had reviewed prior to the visit. The visit also included a facility tour. During the evaluation visit, the team met with:

Members of the Department faculty in two separate sessions (tenured and tenure track/non-tenure track),
Ed Pratt, Dean of

Michele Hawkins, Associate Provost
Susan Fulks, Assistant Dean of the Graduate College
Debra Szabo, Director, Student Success and Degree Completion
Graduate and undergraduate students (about 20 of each) in Chemistry and Biochemistry.

There has been significant turnover of upper administrative at FAU in recent years. The current president, President Kelly has been in his leadership position for one year. There is currently a search underway for the Dean of Science as the past dean has now moved on to become Provost. Dr. Fields assumed the lead for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in January 2015, most recently serving as Full Member of Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies in Port St. Lucie, FL.

will be shaped by new leaders, a direction has been set by President Kelly with the announcement of a STEM campus at the Jupiter campus. Consistent with this direction, the appointment of Dr. Fields as the department chair uniquely prepares the department to assume a prominent role in the integration of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department across the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses.

One of the major strengths of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is the generally youthful talent and the positive spirit of the faculty members. Even when concerns about funding and workload are expressed, there is a spirit of appreciation for colleagues and for FAU. This creates a firm foundation for the ongoing development that is essential over the next several

biochemistry courses are housed on both campuses. The chair of the Department is on the Jupiter campus; he currently comes to the Boca Raton campus monthly.

Actions:

Begin by shoring up the department structure at the Boca Raton campus with an extended presence on campus (see #1 above)

Curriculum changes that streamline course offerings and enhance flexibility.
Additional faculty to staff courses. Graduation rates are adversely affected by lack of
timely offerings of some currently

their highly collaborative efforts to improve

