



Item: **AS: I-1**

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

SUBJECT: FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS FOR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE SUBMITTED TO BOG

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

FOR BOARD INFORMATION ONLY

The recent update to Florida Regulation 10.015 requires that the board receives copies of any five-year reviews conducted on FAU's Centers of Excellence. Such reviews recently were conducted for the period of Fiscal Year 2021 through 2025 and are presented to the board for informational and compliance purposes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The centers evaluated are The Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology and The Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, and the topics of the reviews included:

- 1) A determination of the center's progress against defined goals and objectives within the context of the center's mission pertinent to FAU's mission and the BOG's Strategic Plan;
- 2) Assessment of Return on Investment of State dollars;
- 3) The need for continuation of the center based on above answers, center activities, services, financial performance and achievements;
- 4) Possible changes in mission or organizational structure;
- 5) Recommendation for budget reduction or expansion; and
- 6) Recommendation for any change of status (to inactive or terminated).

The reviews were further received and evaluated by the Vice President for Research for final comments and approval.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Reviews have been submitted to the Board of Governors and in compliance with Florida Regulation 10.015, copies of the reviews are being furnished to the FAU Board of Trustees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In calculating return on investment of total cumulative non-state revenues over total state revenues received, both have impressive rates of 94.14% and 134.91% respectively.

Supporting Documentation: Florida State Regulation 10.015, Copies of Five-year Reviews for The Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology, and The Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, or SNMREC

Presented by: Lynn Asseff, Associate Vice President of Financial Management,
Division of Research

Phone: 772-242-2395



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 8, 2025

To: FAU Board of Trustees

From: Gregg B. Fields, Ph.D., Vice President for Research

Re: Providing copies of Center of Excellence five-year reviews per Florida Regulation 10.015

The recent update to Florida Regulation 10.015 requires that we submit copies of any five-year reviews conducted on FAU's Centers of Excellence. Such reviews recently were conducted for the period of Fiscal Year 2021 through 2025 and are both attached to and linked in this memorandum.

The centers evaluated are The Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology and The Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, and the topics of the reviews included:

- 1) A determination of the center's progress against defined goals and objectives within the context of the center's mission pertinent to FAU's mission and the BOG's Strategic Plan;
- 2) Assessment of Return on Investment of State dollars;
- 3) The need for continuation of the center based on above answers, center activities, services, financial performance and achievements;
- 4) Possible changes in mission or organizational structure;
- 5) Recommendation for budget reduction or expansion; and
- 6) Recommendation for any change of status (to inactive or terminated).

The reviews were further received and evaluated by the Vice President for Research for final comments and approval.

We welcome any comments or questions and thank you for your time.

cc: Russ L. Ivy, Ph.D., Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Iselgis Garcia, Associate Vice President, Academic Finance and Administration

encl: [SUBMITTED_50.0510_COE_Biomedical- 5 Year Eval FY21-FY25.pdf](#)
[SUBMITTED-50.0600_COE_SNMREC- 5 Yr Eval FY21-FY25.pdf](#)

Five Year Evaluation of Institute and Centers
Review Period: FY2021-FY2025

Institute/Center Name: Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology

Center Code: 50.0510

Committee Review Topics

1. A determination of the institute or center's progress against defined goals and objectives within the context of the institute or center's mission pertinent to FAU's mission and the BOG's Strategic Plan.

Committee Response:

The mission of the Center of Excellence in Biomedical and Marine Biotechnology is to "establish a coordinated program involving academia and industry aimed at developing Florida's marine biota as a pharmaceutical resource." During the review period FY 2021 – 2025, the Center demonstrated progress in this mission; relevant progress aligned with FAU's mission and the BOG's Strategic Plan includes:

- Evidence of scholarship – 16 manuscripts published in high impact journals, with two additional in press, along with numerous presentations.
- Research supported through external funding - \$4.8 million obtained in external funding from sponsors such as the HBOI Foundation, NOAA, the Florida Department of Health, NSF and NIH. Contributed to a semifinalist NSF Regional Innovation Engines proposal, demonstrating the center's capacity to contribute to both research and workforce initiatives.
- Intellectual property pursuits with commercial potential – two patent disclosures, one patent application in preparation, and discovery of biological activity for over 35 marine natural products.
- Undergraduate and graduate participation in research - four graduate students and thirteen undergraduate students were mentored.
- Community engagement - educational materials developed for K-12 students, and leadership positions held in key national and international organizations.

The Center's research, academic, intellectual property and community engagement accomplishments during the review period demonstrate its alignment with and support of FAU's mission and the BOG's stated goals of excellence, productivity, and strategic priorities.

2. Assessment of Return on Investment of State dollars, if applicable. (ROI calculated on Total Cumulative Non-State Legislature Revenues divided by Total Cumulative State Legislature Funding received)

- Total Cumulative State Legislature Funding Received: \$10,000,000.00 (per FY24 report submitted to BOG)
- Cumulative Non-State Revenues received through FY23: \$7,179,017.00; and Per 5-year report: revenues FY24: 1,238,890 and FY25: 996,382, for a total of \$9,414,289

- ROI: 94.14%

Committee Response:

The ROI indicated above reflects a solid return on the investment of state dollars, as indicated by a near 1-1 investment/return ratio.

3. The need for continuation of the Institute/Center based on above answers, Center activities, services, financial performance and achievements.

Committee Response:

The Center should continue its work, based on goals achieved during the review period and the therapeutic potential of its research to diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, conditions particularly relevant to Florida's population. The Center also maintains strong collaborations, reflecting growth and sustainability potential.

4. Possible changes in mission or organizational structure

Committee Response:

No recommendations for changes in mission or organizational structure.

5. Recommendation for budget reduction or expansion

Committee Response:

There are no recommendations for budget reduction or expansion. However, it is the committee's recommendation that, as an expectation for the next phase of the center, it leverage HBOI Foundation funding as a catalyst to pursue further external federal funding. Moreover, the committee encourages the center to establish additional commercial collaborations to explore generating revenue from its natural products library, as well as consider broader applications of its research in addition to drug discovery.

6. Recommendations for change of classification (State of Florida or University institute or center), if applicable.

- This is a Center of Excellence established by the Florida Legislature. No changes are recommended.

Committee Response:

No changes are recommended

7. This center is currently in active status. Please explain any recommendations for change of status to inactive or terminated.

Committee Response:

No recommendations to change the Center's current active status.

VPR COMMENTS AND APPROVAL:

1.Evaluation Summary

VPR Response:

I concur with the recommendations of no changes and to retain the Center's active status.

Five Year Evaluation of Institute and Centers
Review Period: FY2021-FY2025

Institute/Center Name: Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center

Center Code: 50.0600

Committee Review Topics

1. A determination of the institute or center's progress against defined goals and objectives within the context of the institute or center's mission pertinent to FAU's mission and the BOG's Strategic Plan.

Committee Response:

The mission of the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC) is to advance "the science and technology of recovering energy from the oceans' renewable resources," in particular from southeastern US ocean currents and offshore thermal resources. During the review period FY 2021 – 2025, the Center demonstrated progress in this mission; relevant progress aligned with FAU's mission and the BOG's Strategic Plan includes:

- Research supported through external funding – \$8.3 million obtained in external funding (with SNMREC either as prime or subcontract) from funders such as the US Department of Energy, NOAA, NSF, and several companies.
- Activities with commercial potential – the Center was a founding member of US DOE's TEAMER network, which offers testing and expertise to the marine energy industry, and helped support private sector marine energy industry projects to build and/or test novel electricity-generating equipment, contributing to the advancement of Florida's blue economy.
- Undergraduate and graduate participation in research - more than 150 graduate and undergraduate students have been involved in the Center's research efforts over its lifetime, and more than 200 teachers were trained to introduce curriculum developed by the Center into high school science classrooms.
- Community engagement – the Center has partnered with the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida to lay the foundation for a future electrical connection of offshore equipment to the city's municipal grid. The Center has also partnered with international stakeholders to develop marine energy standards.

The Center's research, academic, commercial and community engagement accomplishments during the review period demonstrate its alignment with and support of FAU's mission and the BOG's stated goals of excellence, productivity, and strategic priorities.

The committee would like to recommend, for future reports, additional information on publications generated by the Center during the review period.

2. Assessment of Return on Investment of State dollars, if applicable. (ROI calculated on Total Cumulative Non-State Legislature Revenues divided by Total Cumulative State Legislature Funding received)

- Total Cumulative State Legislature Funding Received: \$13,750,000.00 (per FY24 report submitted to BOG)
- Total Cumulative Non-State Legislature Revenues Per 5-year Report FY21–FY25 and cumulative revenues reported annually in FY23 and FY24: \$18,549,556.4
- ROI: 134.91%

Committee Response:

The ROI listed above is impressive, indicating an excellent return on investment of state dollars, exceeding a 1-1 ratio.

3. The need for continuation of the Institute/Center based on above answers, Center activities, services, financial performance and achievements.

Committee Response:

Given the performance of the Center during the review period, its notable ROI, and promise for future growth, as demonstrated by efforts to connect offshore energy equipment to a municipal grid, and plans to install a third coastal radar site, in addition to its collaborations with other universities and institutes, the Center should continue to perform its mission.

4. Possible changes in mission or organizational structure

Committee Response:

No changes in Center mission are recommended. In terms of organizational structure, as noted above, the Center has performed well and obtained external research funding over the life of the center, with a strong ROI on state funds. Based on the Center's portfolio of funded projects and strong engagement of engineering faculty, FAU's College of Engineering and Computer Science (COECS) may be a natural home for expanding the center's mission. The COECS would be able to provide extensive administrative support in pre- and post-award management of funded projects, as well as access to relevant infrastructure and robust opportunities for collaboration. Further, leadership who are members of FAU's graduate faculty would be able to provide the most comprehensive guidance to students conducting research through the center.

5. Recommendation for budget reduction or expansion

Committee Response:

No recommendations for either budget reduction or expansion.

6. Recommendations for change of classification (State of Florida or University institute or center), if applicable.

- This is a Center of Excellence established by the Florida Legislature. No changes are recommended.

Committee Response:

No changes are recommended.

7. This center is currently in active status. Please explain any recommendations for change of status to inactive or terminated.

Committee Response:

Recommend to maintain the Center's current active status.

VPR COMMENTS AND APPROVAL:

1.Evaluation Summary

VPR Response:

I concur with the recommendations of no changes and to retain the Center's active status. Meetings to discuss changes in the organizational structure, specifically the role of the COECS, have taken place. Further involvement of the COECS in SNMREC is recommended.

Gregg Fields