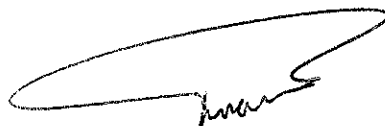


October 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: University Graduate Council

Fr: Mahyar Nouri-Shirazi, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Chair, CESCO Graduate Program Committee



RE: Recency of Credits Requirement for the MS in Biomedical Science Program

We are requesting UGC approval for a change to the university's Recency of Credits requirement for the MS in Biomedical Science degree and the Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Science.

The university policy was recently changed. The time limit on credits increased from a maximum of 7 years to 10 years. The current policy as stated in the 2011-2012 University Catalog:

Recency of Credits

No credit that is more than 10 years old at the time the Florida Atlantic University graduate degree is awarded may be counted toward that degree. Credits transferred into or applied to an FAU program are considered earned in the first semester of enrollment at FAU. Note: Individual graduate programs may have stricter recency of credit time limits.

The Biomedical Science field is one that is rapidly evolving so coursework that was completed as much as 10 years ago will most likely be obsolete by the time the MS degree or Certificate is granted. We wish to keep the 7 year time limit on credits that may be applied towards the Biomedical Science program credentials. Currently the MS degree requires 30 credits of coursework and the Graduate Certificate requires 14 credits. We feel that the 7 year time frame allows students the flexibility needed to complete their programs without sacrificing additional relevance of the coursework they have completed.

The proposed Recency of Credits policies to be published in the university catalog for MS in Biomedical Science degree and Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Science programs are:

Recency of Credits: No credit that is more than 7 years old at the time the MS in Biomedical Science degree is awarded may be counted toward the degree.

Recency of Credits: No credit that is more than 7 years old at the time the Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Science is awarded may be counted toward the certificate.

Thank you for your consideration.