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**Senate Review and Recommendation
Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience**

**A. Written Report Summary**

1. **Purpose:** CSFN’s purpose is to “increase the quality and quantity of neuroscience research at UM and across Montana. . . . The center’s primary focus is on serving UM faculty and students whose research aims to advance our understanding of how the brain functions at the molecular and cellular levels and how these functions are altered in brain injury and disease. . . . mission has broadened into education to ensure that its affiliated faculty have access to an adequate pool of talented graduate and undergraduate students.”
2. **Objectives:** To meet this mission, CSFN has these objectives:
	1. “Increase the critical mass of productive research neuroscientist at UM through strategic recruitment;
	2. “Increase the productivity and competitiveness of neuroscientists at UM by supporting the infrastructure and resources required for successful research; and
	3. “Leverage the expertise and success of the neuroscience research enterprise to positively impact the educational mission of UM and provide CSFN-affiliated faculty with a pool of talented and well-trained graduate and undergraduate students.”
3. **Anticipated Activities:** To meet its goals and objectives, CSFN engages in these activities:
	1. Recruitment and retention of both students and faculty by focusing on the graduate and undergraduate degrees and collaborating with other UM departments to support hiring;
	2. Professional development activities that include weekly conferences with faculty and students, vising scientists, and grantsmanship mentoring; and
	3. Undergraduate research mentoring, including the center’s summer graduate research fellowship.
4. **Other organizations involved:**
	1. Funding sources: the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE), Murdock Charitable Trust, and the Montana Board of Research Commercialization Technology.
	2. Institutional collaboration: McLaughlin Research Institute (Great Falls) , and Montana State University
5. **Reporting line:** Currently, CSFN reports to the School of Pharmacy and Health Science through the Chair of the Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the School’s Dean. **“**School of Pharmacy and Health Science through the Chair of the Department of Biomedical & Pharmaceutical Sciences and the School’s Dean.” CSFN faculty recommend a change in the reporting line to the VP for Research and Creative Scholarship.
6. **Relationships with institutional mission and contribution to academic programs:** CSFN is will-aligned with the UM mission. All of CSFN’s activities dynamically support all elements of the UM2020 strategic plan and the strategic vision. The CSFN provides programs that support UM’s research and education missions.
7. **Similar Programs:** Institutions in Montana and surrounding states have similar programs. CSFN collaborates with MSU Center for Mental Health Research & Recovery through affiliated faculty.
8. **Budget:** CSFN does not use any state funding. For the next three years, it appears CSFN will meet its costs, even without additional grant funding. However, in years four and five, the center will need additional funding, which is pending.
9. **Need and cost for new faculty (next five years):**  CSFN does not have its own hiring authority. Instead, through its grant funding, it supports hiring in other departments faculty in the fields of “cellular and molecular neurosciences, but who hold appoints in a wide spectrum of UM departments.”

**10. Need for other personnel:** CSFN’s support staff needs are directly tied to its grant funding. CSFN focuses on supporting graduate students to increase lab productivity.

**11. University resources – use and anticipated needs (next five years**): “Operational costs for the next 5 years are detailed on the attached budget sheets and are estimated to be about $36,000/year. As grant awards increase, it is anticipated that the ***CSFN*** will be able to direct more funding to operational costs. Priorities for the increased spending include maintenance and acquisition of equipment and contributions to start-up packages for new neuroscience faculty.”

**12. Library:** Because CSFN faculty are already appointed in their home departments, CSFN does not require any additional library resources than what those faculty individually require.

**B. Review and Approval Process**

The Faculty Senate through its Chair, who in turn shall distribute it to ECOS and other committees, and approve or disapprove the proposal by a vote of the Senate.

1. **Review in terms of Scope as stated in academic policy 100.0**

CSFN easily meets academic polity 100, by “facilitating collaborative, multi-disciplinary endeavors to combine resources from several programs or institutions to address issues of common interest.” CSFN has strong collaborative research and academic missions, which it implements through various activities.

1. **Review in terms of the University’s mission.**

CSFN focuses on the collaborative development of students and faculty. With its focus on supporting students in labs, CSFN provides unique interdisciplinary experiences. CSFN supports UM’s mission of providing quality educational opportunities, and conducting research that benefits.

1. **Does ECOS/Faculty Senate consider this center controversial?**

No.

1. **Is the relationship with academic units beneficial?**

Yes. Through its grant funding, CSFN provided financial support for facilities and personnel. It also provides a platform for collaborative interdisciplinary work.

1. **Is the program revenue neutral or does it consume more resources than it generates? If so, is the use of University resources justified?**

CSFN generates more financial resources than it consumes. It does not receive funding from UM general funds.

1. **Is the entity making progress toward objectives?**

Yes. The external reviewer said,

The center is highly active in supporting the research and professional development of both faculty and students. As noted, for faculty the most lauded component was providing a regular forum for communication. These weekly meetings have fostered research collaborations and grant submissions. The center also provides important resources for pre-reviewing grants, and travel support for both the center faculty and to bring outside investigators to the university for networking opportunities.

For students, the center provides a range of services including graduate stipends and salary supplements and resources for lab courses. An especially important service has been the summer internship program, which provides funding for students to participate in research in a faculty member’s lab. This is a seemingly rich and unique way to engage and train students in research, and many faculty expressed enthusiasm for this program. I view it as a major success of the program that it has been able to leverage limited resources to significantly facilitate both research and education.

A third function of the center has been to provide access to shared research facilities developed through the COBRE cores. These cores now appear largely autonomous from the center, though the center continues to provide support for the cores and users.

1. **Recommendation:** ECOS recommends continuing this Center.
2. **Justification:** CSFN is meeting its goals and uses no general funds. The center provides significant research and educational opportunities for students and faculty. It is a good example of interdisciplinary collaboration.