Proposal for a combined PhD / MBA degree in the JHS at UAB
LM Schwiebert, Ph.D. March 14, 2003

**Purpose:** The purpose of a combined PhD / MBA degree is…
- to offer students interested in pursuing a career in pharmaceutical / biotechnology industry the opportunity to obtain degrees in both science and business in an integrated format
- to render students more marketable to the pharmaceutical / biotechnology industry than students who have received either degree alone

**Organization:** It is proposed that a combined PhD / MBA be organized as follows…
- an applicant may apply to the combined degree program directly; the applicant will then be reviewed and accepted by a steering committee including faculty from the requested JHS doctoral program and the business school
- alternatively, current JHS doctoral students may apply to the combined degree with review and acceptance by the aforementioned steering committee
- students accepted into the PhD / MBA program will first complete the PhD portion of the degree followed by completion of the MBA degree

**PhD Degree:** It is proposed that the PhD portion of the combined degree…
- be completed in any JHS doctoral program
- may integrate business-related seminars, but not formal course work so as not to detract from the student’s focus on scientific training and research

**MBA Degree:** It is proposed that the MBA portion of the combined degree…
- be streamlined to emphasize education and training in areas pertinent to pharmaceutical industry
- require one year, full-time enrollment for completion in order to minimize cost of tuition and time to degree

**Funding:** It is proposed that funding for the tuition of a combined PhD / MBA degree would occur through…
- current resources for the funding of doctoral program tuition and fees (graduate school fellowships, departmental funds, extramural grants)
- pharmaceutical / biotechnology firm contributions to underwrite the MBA tuition
- graduates working as interns in the participating pharmaceutical / biotechnology firms for a specified amount of time as ‘pay-back’ for the MBA tuition

**Benefits:** It is anticipated that the establishment of a combined PhD / MBA degree would have the following benefits…
- improve training of graduate students interested in a career in the pharmaceutical industry
- improve recruitment to JHS graduate programs
- improve interactions between JHS and business school campuses