MEMORANDUM

TO:        George H. Davis
            Executive Vice President and Provost

FROM:      Joaquin Ruiz, Dean, College of Science
            Leslie P. Tolbert, Vice President for Research
            Graduate Studies, and Economic Development

RE:        Transfer of graduate degrees in Statistics

DATE:      October 27, 2005

We are writing to request that the academic home of the graduate degrees (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) with a major in statistics be transferred from the College of Science to the Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs.

Numerous cross-department/cross-college conversations have taken place over the last two years regarding the degree programs and how the curricular structure could be reconfigured to maximize the University's faculty expertise. This transfer of the degree programs to the Graduate Interdisciplinary Programs will allow for enhanced cross-unit partnerships in the Colleges of Science, Engineering, Agriculture and Life Sciences, Public Health, and Pharmacy. Although the core faculty and initial commitments for funding come from these colleges, we anticipate that interested faculty from other colleges may also want to participate in this GIDP as affiliate faculty members.

Anchored in a mathematical statistics framework, the graduate programs in statistics will take advantage of the University's strengths in the biosciences and biotechnology, and will create the necessary educational foundation and linkages for graduate students so that they enter into the high employment demand area of statistics with a competitive edge.