Flinn roadmap hopes to bring more biotech jobs to Tucson

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Proposed improvements to life sciences research at the UA will hopefully bring high-paying biotechnology companies to Tucson, UA life sciences faculty members said yesterday.

These companies would potentially create jobs and improve the economy, the faculty members said.

The 50 researchers, professors, and various life science board members gathered in the Integrated Learning Center to discuss the UA's role in a proposed plan aimed at strengthening bio-medical institutions statewide.

The plan, called a roadmap, outlines progress to be made over 5- and 10-year increments at a cost of more than $1 billion.

The roadmap, proposed by the philanthropic Flinn Foundation in connection with Battelle, an independent nonprofit research company, was proposed as a means of strengthening bioscience departments in Arizona's three universities and other biomedical institutions statewide.

"The plan is a roadmap for how we can do that," said John Stokstad, chairman of the UA biomedical science board. "It's a way for us to match other institutions in the country."